

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a peer support network for certain law enforcement
3 personnel.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by
6 adding Subchapter M-1 to read as follows:

7 SUBCHAPTER M-1. PEER SUPPORT NETWORK FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

8 Sec. 1701.621. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

9 (1) "Law enforcement officer" means a person
10 identified as a peace officer under Article 2.12(1), (2), (3), or
11 (4), Code of Criminal Procedure.

12 (2) "Peer" means a person who is a law enforcement
13 officer or retired law enforcement officer.

14 Sec. 1701.622. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The
15 commission shall develop a peer support network for law enforcement
16 officers. The network must include:

17 (1) peer-to-peer support;

18 (2) training for peer service coordinators and peers
19 that includes suicide prevention training;

20 (3) technical assistance for program development,
21 peer service coordinators, licensed mental health professionals,
22 and peers; and

23 (4) identification, retention, and screening of
24 licensed mental health professionals.

1 (b) As part of the peer support network for law enforcement
2 officers, the commission shall ensure law enforcement officers have
3 support in both urban and rural jurisdictions.

4 (c) The commission shall solicit and ensure that
5 specialized training is provided to persons who are peers and who
6 want to provide peer-to-peer support and other peer-to-peer
7 services under the network.

8 (d) The commission may adopt rules necessary to implement
9 this subchapter.

10 Sec. 1701.623. CONTRACT WITH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
11 EDUCATION. The commission may contract with an institution of
12 higher education that has appropriate expertise in mental health or
13 law enforcement to develop the peer support network under this
14 subchapter.

15 Sec. 1701.624. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PARTICIPANT INFORMATION.
16 Information relating to a law enforcement officer's participation
17 in peer-to-peer support and other peer-to-peer services under the
18 network is confidential and may not be disclosed under Chapter 552,
19 Government Code, by:

20 (1) the commission;

21 (2) a law enforcement agency that employs a law
22 enforcement officer participant; or

23 (3) any other state agency or political subdivision in
24 this state that employs a law enforcement officer participant.

25 Sec. 1701.625. PROTECTIONS RELATED TO LICENSURE. A law
26 enforcement officer's participation in peer-to-peer support and
27 other peer-to-peer services under the network may not:

1 (1) serve as the basis for a revocation, suspension,
2 or denial of a license issued under this chapter; or

3 (2) be considered in any proceeding related to the
4 officer's licensure under this chapter.

5 Sec. 1701.626. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of
6 each year, the commission shall submit a report to the governor and
7 the legislature that includes:

8 (1) the number of law enforcement officers who
9 received peer support through the peer support network for law
10 enforcement officers;

11 (2) the number of peers and peer service coordinators
12 trained;

13 (3) an evaluation of the services provided under this
14 subchapter; and

15 (4) recommendations for program improvements.

16 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2022, the Texas
17 Commission on Law Enforcement shall develop the peer support
18 network for law enforcement officers, as required under Subchapter
19 M-1, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 64 passed the Senate on March 29, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; May 27, 2021, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 28, 2021, House granted request of the Senate; May 29, 2021, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 64 passed the House, with amendments, on May 25, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, two present not voting; May 28, 2021, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 29, 2021, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor