

1-1 By: Nelson, Johnson S.B. No. 64  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 9, 2020; March 3, 2021, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human Services;  
 1-4 March 22, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; March 22, 2021,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15			X	
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 64 By: Buckingham

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a peer support network for certain law enforcement  
 1-22 personnel.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by  
 1-25 adding Subchapter M-1 to read as follows:

1-26 SUBCHAPTER M-1. PEER SUPPORT NETWORK FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

1-27 Sec. 1701.621. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-28 (1) "Law enforcement officer" means a person  
 1-29 identified as a peace officer under Article 2.12(1), (2), (3), or  
 1-30 (4), Code of Criminal Procedure.

1-31 (2) "Peer" means a person who is a law enforcement  
 1-32 officer or retired law enforcement officer.

1-33 Sec. 1701.622. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The  
 1-34 commission shall develop a peer support network for law enforcement  
 1-35 officers. The network must include:

1-36 (1) peer-to-peer support;

1-37 (2) training for peer service coordinators and peers  
 1-38 that includes suicide prevention training;

1-39 (3) technical assistance for program development,  
 1-40 peer service coordinators, licensed mental health professionals,  
 1-41 and peers; and

1-42 (4) identification, retention, and screening of  
 1-43 licensed mental health professionals.

1-44 (b) As part of the peer support network for law enforcement  
 1-45 officers, the commission shall ensure law enforcement officers have  
 1-46 support in both urban and rural jurisdictions.

1-47 (c) The commission shall solicit and ensure that  
 1-48 specialized training is provided to persons who are peers and who  
 1-49 want to provide peer-to-peer support and other peer-to-peer  
 1-50 services under the network.

1-51 (d) The commission may adopt rules necessary to implement  
 1-52 this subchapter.

1-53 Sec. 1701.623. CONTRACT WITH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
 1-54 EDUCATION. The commission may contract with an institution of  
 1-55 higher education that has appropriate expertise in mental health or  
 1-56 law enforcement to develop the peer support network under this  
 1-57 subchapter.

1-58 Sec. 1701.624. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PARTICIPANT INFORMATION.  
 1-59 Information relating to a law enforcement officer's participation  
 1-60 in peer-to-peer support and other peer-to-peer services under the

2-1 network is confidential and may not be disclosed under Chapter 552,  
2-2 Government Code, by:

- 2-3 (1) the commission;
- 2-4 (2) a law enforcement agency that employs a law  
2-5 enforcement officer participant; or
- 2-6 (3) any other state agency or political subdivision in  
2-7 this state that employs a law enforcement officer participant.

2-8 Sec. 1701.625. PROTECTIONS RELATED TO LICENSURE. A law  
2-9 enforcement officer's participation in peer-to-peer support and  
2-10 other peer-to-peer services under the network may not:

- 2-11 (1) serve as the basis for a revocation, suspension,  
2-12 or denial of a license issued under this chapter; or
- 2-13 (2) be considered in any proceeding related to the  
2-14 officer's licensure under this chapter.

2-15 Sec. 1701.626. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of  
2-16 each year, the commission shall submit a report to the governor and  
2-17 the legislature that includes:

- 2-18 (1) the number of law enforcement officers who  
2-19 received peer support through the peer support network for law  
2-20 enforcement officers;
- 2-21 (2) the number of peers and peer service coordinators  
2-22 trained;
- 2-23 (3) an evaluation of the services provided under this  
2-24 subchapter; and
- 2-25 (4) recommendations for program improvements.

2-26 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2022, the Texas  
2-27 Commission on Law Enforcement shall develop the peer support  
2-28 network for law enforcement officers, as required under Subchapter  
2-29 M-1, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

2-30 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-31 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-32 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-33 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-34 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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