

By: Hughes, Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1359

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to adoption by law enforcement agencies of a mental health leave policy for peace officers.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 614, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter A-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A-1. MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE

Sec. 614.015. MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE FOR PEACE OFFICERS. (a)

In this section, "law enforcement agency" means an agency of the state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state authorized by law to employ peace officers.

(b) Each law enforcement agency shall develop and adopt a policy allowing the use of mental health leave by the peace officers employed by the agency who experience a traumatic event in the scope of that employment.

(c) The mental health leave policy adopted under this section must:

(1) provide clear and objective guidelines establishing the circumstances under which a peace officer is granted mental health leave and may use mental health leave;

(2) entitle a peace officer to mental health leave without a deduction in salary or other compensation;

(3) enumerate the number of mental health leave days available to a peace officer; and

1           (4) detail the level of anonymity for a peace officer  
2 who takes mental health leave.

3           (d) The mental health leave policy adopted under this  
4 section may provide a list of mental health services available to  
5 peace officers in the area of the law enforcement agency.

6           SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
7 of this Act, each law enforcement agency shall develop the mental  
8 health leave policy required by Section 614.015, Government Code,  
9 as added by this Act.

10           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.