

1-1 By: Gerdes, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Whitmire) H.B. No. 1486
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 17, 2023;
1-3 April 18, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Criminal Justice; May 19, 2023, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 19, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Whitmire	X		
1-9	Flores	X		
1-10	Bettencourt	X		
1-11	Hinojosa	X		
1-12	Huffman	X		
1-13	King	X		
1-14	Miles	X		

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the adoption of a mental health leave policy for certain
1-18 telecommunicators.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 614.015, Government Code, is amended to
1-21 read as follows:

1-22 Sec. 614.015. MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE FOR PEACE OFFICERS AND
1-23 TELECOMMUNICATORS. (a) In this section:

1-24 (1) "Law [~~,"~~ "law] enforcement agency" means an agency
1-25 of the state or [~~an agency~~] of a political subdivision of the state
1-26 authorized by law to employ peace officers.

1-27 (2) "Telecommunicator" means a person authorized to
1-28 act as a telecommunicator under Section 1701.405, Occupations Code.

1-29 (b) Each law enforcement agency, and each agency of the
1-30 state or of a political subdivision of the state that employs a
1-31 full-time telecommunicator, shall develop and adopt a policy
1-32 allowing the use of mental health leave by the peace officers and
1-33 full-time telecommunicators, as applicable, employed by the agency
1-34 who experience a traumatic event in the scope of that employment.

1-35 (c) A [~~The~~] mental health leave policy adopted under this
1-36 section must:

1-37 (1) provide clear and objective guidelines
1-38 establishing the circumstances under which a peace officer or
1-39 telecommunicator is granted [~~mental health leave~~] and may use
1-40 mental health leave;

1-41 (2) entitle a peace officer or telecommunicator to
1-42 mental health leave without a deduction in salary or other
1-43 compensation;

1-44 (3) enumerate the number of mental health leave days
1-45 available to a peace officer or telecommunicator; and

1-46 (4) detail the level of anonymity for a peace officer
1-47 or telecommunicator who takes mental health leave.

1-48 (d) A [~~The~~] mental health leave policy adopted under this
1-49 section may provide a list of mental health services available to
1-50 peace officers and telecommunicators in the area of the law
1-51 enforcement or employing agency.

1-52 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
1-53 of this Act, each agency required to adopt a mental health leave
1-54 policy under Section 614.015, Government Code, as amended by this
1-55 Act, shall adopt a mental health leave policy as prescribed by that
1-56 section.

1-57 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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