

By: Spiller

H.B. No. 2233

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to required mental health awareness training for first responders.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 9, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 786 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 786. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING

FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Sec. 786.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "First responder" has the meaning assigned by Section 421.095, Government Code.

(2) "First responder training program" means a program that provides training required for certification or licensure as a first responder, including the training required under:

(A) Chapter 773;

(B) Chapter 419, Government Code; and

(C) Chapter 1701, Occupations Code.

Sec. 786.002. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING REQUIRED.

(a) A person who provides to first responders and first responder trainees a first responder training program shall:

(1) include as part of the program at least six hours of training on mental health awareness that covers:

(A) the most common mental health issues experienced by first responders;

1           (B) the impact of chronic trauma on a first  
2 responder's duties;

3           (C) signs and symptoms of mental illness; and

4           (D) strategies for first responders to attain  
5 mental wellness and resiliency; and

6           (2) require first responders and first responder  
7 trainees to successfully complete the training described by  
8 Subdivision (1) as part of the training program.

9           (b) In providing the training described by Subsection (a), a  
10 person who provides a first responder training program must use a  
11 mental health awareness training curriculum developed or adopted  
12 under Section 786.003.

13           Sec. 786.003. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING CURRICULUM.

14           (a) The Health and Human Services Commission shall develop or adopt  
15 a curriculum for the first responder mental health awareness  
16 training required by Section 786.002. The commission shall  
17 collaborate with state agencies that certify or license first  
18 responders in the development or adoption of the curriculum.

19           (b) Each state agency that certifies or licenses first  
20 responders shall ensure that the applicable first responder  
21 training program required for certification or licensure as a first  
22 responder uses the mental health awareness training curriculum  
23 developed or adopted by the commission under this section.

24           SECTION 2. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended  
25 by adding Subsection (q) to read as follows:

26           (q) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the  
27 commission shall require an officer to complete the mental health

1 awareness training curriculum developed or adopted by the Health  
2 and Human Services Commission under Section 786.003, Health and  
3 Safety Code.

4 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
5 of this Act:

6 (1) the Health and Human Services Commission shall  
7 develop or adopt the first responder mental health awareness  
8 training curriculum required by Section 786.003, Health and Safety  
9 Code, as added by this Act; and

10 (2) each state agency that certifies or licenses first  
11 responders subject to Chapter 786, Health and Safety Code, as added  
12 by this Act, shall ensure that:

13 (A) each first responder training program  
14 subject to the chapter includes the mental health awareness  
15 training and curriculum required by that chapter; and

16 (B) each first responder and first responder  
17 trainee subject to the chapter completes the required training.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.