

By: Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 2467

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program to support the provision of critical incident stress debriefing to certain peace officers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 772, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 772.0074 to read as follows:

Sec. 772.0074. CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS DEBRIEFING GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Criminal justice division" means the criminal justice division established under Section 772.006.

(2) "Critical incident" means an incident involving a peace officer that occurs while the officer is performing official duties and that results in serious bodily injury to the officer or poses a substantial risk of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or of serious harm to the officer's mental health or well-being.

(3) "Law enforcement agency" means an agency of the state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state that is authorized by law to employ peace officers.

(4) "Peace officer" has the meaning assigned by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(b) The criminal justice division shall establish and administer a grant program to assist law enforcement agencies in providing critical incident stress debriefing to peace officers who

1 experience critical incidents while performing official duties.

2 (c) The criminal justice division may award a grant under  
3 this section to:

4 (1) a law enforcement agency for the agency to provide  
5 critical incident stress debriefing to peace officers employed by  
6 the agency; or

7 (2) any other person for the person to develop  
8 critical incident stress debriefing curricula, materials, or best  
9 practices that are designed for use by a law enforcement agency that  
10 receives a grant under this section.

11 (d) A law enforcement agency that receives a grant under  
12 this section must:

13 (1) inform each peace officer employed by the agency  
14 about the program, including opportunities to participate in the  
15 program; and

16 (2) certify in writing that the agency will not use  
17 disciplinary action or any other form of punishment, including the  
18 refusal of a promotion, to discourage or prohibit an officer's  
19 participation in the critical incident stress debriefing offered by  
20 the agency.

21 (e) The criminal justice division shall establish:

22 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;

23 (2) grant application procedures;

24 (3) procedures for evaluating grant applications;

25 (4) the minimum qualifications necessary for a person  
26 to conduct critical incident stress debriefing that is provided  
27 using money distributed under the grant program; and

1           (5) guidance for the development of critical incident  
2 stress debriefing curricula, materials, and best practices.

3           (f) The criminal justice division shall include in the  
4 biennial report required by Section 772.006(a)(9) a detailed  
5 reporting of the results and performance of the grant program  
6 administered under this section.

7           SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2017, the criminal  
8 justice division of the governor's office shall establish the grant  
9 program required by Section 772.0074, Government Code, as added by  
10 this Act, and, not later than January 1, 2018, shall begin to award  
11 grants under the program.

12           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.