

By: Bell of Montgomery, Bailes

H.B. No. 2404

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2404:

By: Clardy

C.S.H.B. No. 2404

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishment of the office of first responder training support within the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas and to the provision of critical incident support training services to first responders.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 96, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 96.642 to read as follows:

Sec. 96.642. OFFICE OF FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING SUPPORT.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Critical incident stress management team" means a trained team of peer support responders and mental health professionals who provide support to first responders using an integrated multicomponent crisis intervention system.

(2) "Department" means Disaster Behavioral Health Services within the Health and Human Services Commission.

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

(4) "Institute" means the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas.

(5) "Office" means the office of first responder training support established by this section.

(6) "Peer support responder" means an individual member of a peer support team who, as an employee, contractor, or

1 volunteer of a public agency, provides services designed to give  
2 compassionate or coping support to a first responder involved in,  
3 witness to, or otherwise affected by a traumatic event.

4 (7) "President" means the president of Sam Houston  
5 State University.

6 (8) "Public agency" has the meaning assigned by  
7 Section 2257.002, Government Code.

8 (b) The president shall establish an office of first  
9 responder training support within the institute.

10 (c) The president shall appoint a training support  
11 coordinator as the administrative head of the office. Except as  
12 provided by Subsection (d), the training support coordinator must:

13 (1) have at least five years of experience as a first  
14 responder;

15 (2) have successfully completed training in providing  
16 critical incident stress management to first responders; and

17 (3) demonstrate a professional ability to provide  
18 emotional and moral support to first responders.

19 (d) If the training support coordinator has not completed  
20 the training required by Subsection (c)(2), the training support  
21 coordinator must complete the training as soon as practicable.

22 (e) The office may coordinate with the department to  
23 establish a program for training individuals to serve on a critical  
24 incident stress management team. An individual may not serve on a  
25 critical incident stress management team before the individual  
26 completes training in critical incident stress management at least  
27 as comprehensive as that provided by the International Critical

1 Incident Stress Foundation.

2 (f) The office shall provide assistance in gaining access to  
3 training at least as comprehensive as that provided by the  
4 International Critical Incident Stress Foundation for critical  
5 incident stress management teams. The training courses may include  
6 instruction about:

7 (1) suicide awareness;

8 (2) suicide prevention;

9 (3) suicide intervention for first responders; and

10 (4) other behavioral health topics.

11 (g) The office shall provide information about the  
12 department's critical incident stress management teams to an  
13 individual who completes the office's training.

14 (h) The office and department shall share with first  
15 responders who have been involved in a critical incident  
16 information regarding the availability of the Post Critical  
17 Incident Seminar.

18 (i) The office shall coordinate with qualified  
19 International Critical Incident Stress Foundation instructors to  
20 provide International Critical Incident Stress Foundation training  
21 to peer support responders.

22 (j) The office may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and  
23 donations to implement this section.

24 (k) The president shall adopt rules necessary to implement  
25 this section.

26 (l) This section does not place any restrictions on the type  
27 of training provided by or to any critical incident stress

1 management team or peer support program outside of the institute.

2           SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
3 of this Act, the president of Sam Houston State University shall  
4 adopt rules necessary to implement Section 96.642, Education Code,  
5 as added by this Act.

6           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.