

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 64

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a mental health program that includes peer-to-peer counseling for certain law enforcement personnel.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter I-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I-1. MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 1001.231. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Law enforcement officer" means a person identified as a peace officer under Article 2.12(1), (2), (3), or (4), Code of Criminal Procedure.

(2) "Peer" means a person who is a law enforcement officer or a law enforcement officer's family member.

Sec. 1001.232. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The executive commissioner shall develop a mental health intervention program for law enforcement officers. The program must include:

(1) peer-to-peer counseling;

(2) access to licensed mental health professionals for peer service coordinators and peers;

(3) training approved by the commission for peer service coordinators, licensed mental health professionals, and peers;

(4) technical assistance for peer service coordinators, licensed mental health professionals, and peers;

1 (5) identification, retention, and screening of
2 community-based licensed mental health professionals;

3 (6) suicide prevention training for peer service
4 coordinators and peers; and

5 (7) coordination of mental health first aid for law
6 enforcement officers and immediate family members of law
7 enforcement officers.

8 (b) As part of the mental health intervention program the
9 executive commissioner shall develop a mental health initiative for
10 law enforcement officers serving in rural jurisdictions.

11 (c) The commission shall solicit and ensure that
12 specialized training is provided to persons who are peers and who
13 want to provide peer-to-peer counseling or other peer-to-peer
14 services under the program.

15 (d) The executive commissioner may adopt rules necessary to
16 implement this subchapter.

17 Sec. 1001.233. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of
18 each year, the executive commissioner shall submit a report to the
19 governor and the legislature that includes:

20 (1) the number of law enforcement officers who
21 received services through the mental health intervention program
22 for law enforcement officers;

23 (2) the number of peers and peer service coordinators
24 trained;

25 (3) an evaluation of the services provided under this
26 subchapter; and

27 (4) recommendations for program improvements.

1 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2022, the executive
2 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
3 develop the mental health intervention program for law enforcement
4 officers, as required under Subchapter I-1, Chapter 1001, Health
5 and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.