

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 1358

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to mental health resources for law enforcement agencies.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER M. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 1001.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Law enforcement agency" means an agency of the state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state authorized by law to employ a law enforcement officer.

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

Sec. 1001.302. RESOURCES. (a) The executive commissioner may develop resources to provide to the heads of law enforcement agencies to assist in addressing mental health issues experienced by a law enforcement officer.

(b) The materials developed under Subsection (a) may include:

(1) resources to assist the head of a law enforcement agency in identifying a law enforcement officer who would benefit from mental health services;

(2) methods to reduce the stigma associated with a law enforcement officer experiencing mental health issues; and

1           (3) local resources to assist the head of a law  
2 enforcement agency in locating and contacting a licensed mental  
3 health professional.

4           (c) The executive commissioner may post the resources on the  
5 commission's Internet website.

6           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.