

1-1 By: Hughes S.B. No. 1359
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2021; March 18, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;
 1-4 April 21, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 21, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to adoption by law enforcement agencies of a mental health
 1-18 leave policy for peace officers.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Chapter 614, Government Code, is amended by
 1-21 adding Subchapter A-1 to read as follows:

1-22 SUBCHAPTER A-1. MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE

1-23 Sec. 614.015. MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE FOR PEACE OFFICERS. (a)
 1-24 In this section, "law enforcement agency" means an agency of the
 1-25 state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state
 1-26 authorized by law to employ peace officers.

1-27 (b) Each law enforcement agency shall develop and adopt a
 1-28 policy allowing the use of mental health leave by the peace officers
 1-29 employed by the agency who experience a traumatic event in the scope
 1-30 of that employment.

1-31 (c) The mental health leave policy adopted under this
 1-32 section must:

1-33 (1) provide clear and objective guidelines
 1-34 establishing the circumstances under which a peace officer is
 1-35 granted mental health leave and may use mental health leave;

1-36 (2) entitle a peace officer to mental health leave
 1-37 without a deduction in salary or other compensation;

1-38 (3) enumerate the number of mental health leave days
 1-39 available to a peace officer; and

1-40 (4) detail the level of anonymity for a peace officer
 1-41 who takes mental health leave.

1-42 (d) The mental health leave policy adopted under this
 1-43 section may provide a list of mental health services available to
 1-44 peace officers in the area of the law enforcement agency.

1-45 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
 1-46 of this Act, each law enforcement agency shall develop the mental
 1-47 health leave policy required by Section 614.015, Government Code,
 1-48 as added by this Act.

1-49 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

1-50 * * * * *