

By: Gerdes, Orr, Plesa, et al.

H.B. No. 1486

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the adoption of a mental health leave policy for certain telecommunicators.

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

SECTION 1. Section 614.015, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 614.015. MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE FOR PEACE OFFICERS AND TELECOMMUNICATORS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Law [~~,"~~ "law] enforcement agency" means an agency of the state or [~~an agency~~] of a political subdivision of the state authorized by law to employ peace officers.

(2) "Telecommunicator" means a person authorized to act as a telecommunicator under Section 1701.405, Occupations Code.

(b) Each law enforcement agency, and each agency of the state or of a political subdivision of the state that employs a full-time telecommunicator, shall develop and adopt a policy allowing the use of mental health leave by the peace officers and full-time telecommunicators, as applicable, employed by the agency who experience a traumatic event in the scope of that employment.

(c) A [~~The~~] mental health leave policy adopted under this section must:

(1) provide clear and objective guidelines establishing the circumstances under which a peace officer or telecommunicator is granted [~~mental health leave~~] and may use

1 mental health leave;

2 (2) entitle a peace officer or telecommunicator to
3 mental health leave without a deduction in salary or other
4 compensation;

5 (3) enumerate the number of mental health leave days
6 available to a peace officer or telecommunicator; and

7 (4) detail the level of anonymity for a peace officer
8 or telecommunicator who takes mental health leave.

9 (d) A [~~The~~] mental health leave policy adopted under this
10 section may provide a list of mental health services available to
11 peace officers and telecommunicators in the area of the law
12 enforcement or employing agency.

13 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
14 of this Act, each agency required to adopt a mental health leave
15 policy under Section 614.015, Government Code, as amended by this
16 Act, shall adopt a mental health leave policy as prescribed by that
17 section.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.