

By: Campos, Martinez, Lujan,
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H.B. No. 3528

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an advisory committee to study
suicide prevention and peer support programs in fire departments in
this state.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Fire
Protection.

(2) "Fire department" has the meaning assigned by
Section 419.021, Government Code.

(3) "Fire fighter" has the meaning assigned by Section
143.003, Local Government Code.

SECTION 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The commission shall
establish an advisory committee to study the need to implement
suicide prevention and peer support programs in fire departments in
this state. The committee is composed of the following members:

(1) two fire fighters, appointed by the Texas State
Association of Firefighters;

(2) two fire fighters, appointed by the State
Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas;

(3) two fire chiefs, appointed by the Texas Fire
Chiefs Association;

(4) one person who is licensed to provide professional
mental health services, as defined by Section 531.002, Health and

1 Safety Code, appointed by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association;

2 (5) one person who is licensed to provide professional
3 mental health services as defined by Section 531.002, Health and
4 Safety Code, appointed by the Texas State Association of
5 Firefighters;

6 (6) one person who is licensed to provide professional
7 mental health services, as defined by Section 531.002, Health and
8 Safety Code, appointed by the State Firefighters' and Fire
9 Marshals' Association of Texas;

10 (7) one person, appointed by the executive director of
11 the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service; and

12 (8) the executive director of the commission.

13 (b) The committee shall designate a member of the committee
14 as chair of the committee.

15 (c) The commission may adopt rules necessary to carry out
16 the purpose and duties of the committee under this Act.

17 (d) The commission shall provide administrative support and
18 resources necessary for the committee to carry out the purpose and
19 duties of the committee under this Act.

20 (e) The committee may meet in person or by telephone
21 conference, videoconference, or other electronic means.

22 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2024, the
23 advisory committee shall prepare and submit a report to the
24 governor and the legislature. The report must:

25 (1) provide an overview of suicide prevention and peer
26 support groups in fire departments;

27 (2) address possible licensing requirements and any

1 confidentiality concerns; and

2 (3) provide recommendations on:

3 (A) the need for legislation to implement suicide
4 prevention and peer support groups in fire departments;

5 (B) whether to encourage local governments to
6 develop local suicide prevention and peer support groups in fire
7 departments; and

8 (C) specific programs to be implemented in this
9 state.

10 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE. The advisory committee created
11 by this Act is abolished and this Act expires January 10, 2025.

12 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
13 1, 2023.