

1-1 By: Campos, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Middleton) H.B. No. 3528
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2023;
1-3 May 9, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Local
1-4 Government; May 22, 2023, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 22, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11			X	
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the establishment of an advisory committee to study
1-20 suicide prevention and peer support programs in fire departments in
1-21 this state.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

1-24 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Fire
1-25 Protection.

1-26 (2) "Fire department" has the meaning assigned by
1-27 Section 419.021, Government Code.

1-28 (3) "Fire fighter" has the meaning assigned by Section
1-29 143.003, Local Government Code.

1-30 SECTION 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The commission shall
1-31 establish an advisory committee to study the need to implement
1-32 suicide prevention and peer support programs in fire departments in
1-33 this state. The committee is composed of the following members:

1-34 (1) two fire fighters, appointed by the Texas State
1-35 Association of Firefighters;

1-36 (2) two fire fighters, appointed by the State
1-37 Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas;

1-38 (3) two fire chiefs, appointed by the Texas Fire
1-39 Chiefs Association;

1-40 (4) one person who is licensed to provide professional
1-41 mental health services, as defined by Section 531.002, Health and
1-42 Safety Code, appointed by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association;

1-43 (5) one person who is licensed to provide professional
1-44 mental health services as defined by Section 531.002, Health and
1-45 Safety Code, appointed by the Texas State Association of
1-46 Firefighters;

1-47 (6) one person who is licensed to provide professional
1-48 mental health services, as defined by Section 531.002, Health and
1-49 Safety Code, appointed by the State Firefighters' and Fire
1-50 Marshals' Association of Texas;

1-51 (7) one person, appointed by the executive director of
1-52 the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service; and

1-53 (8) the executive director of the commission.

1-54 (b) The committee shall designate a member of the committee
1-55 as chair of the committee.

1-56 (c) The commission may adopt rules necessary to carry out
1-57 the purpose and duties of the committee under this Act.

1-58 (d) The commission shall provide administrative support and
1-59 resources necessary for the committee to carry out the purpose and
1-60 duties of the committee under this Act.

1-61 (e) The committee may meet in person or by telephone

conference, videoconference, or other electronic means.

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

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

(2) address possible licensing requirements and any confidentiality concerns; and

(3) provide recommendations on:

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

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

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

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

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

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