

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 2492

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 chiefs, appointed by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association;

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

(4) one person who is licensed to provide professional

1 mental health services as defined by Section 531.002, Health and  
2 Safety Code, appointed by the Texas State Association of  
3 Firefighters; and

4 (5) the executive director of the commission.

5 (b) The committee shall designate a member of the committee  
6 as chair of the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 (3) provide recommendations on:

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

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

27 (C) specific programs to be implemented in this

1 state.

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

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