

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 1131

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to 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) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee established under this Act.

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

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

(4) "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 Fire Fighters;

(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

1 mental health services, as defined by Section 531.002, Health and
2 Safety Code, appointed by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association;

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

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

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

13 (8) the executive director of the commission.

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

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

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

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

23 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2026, the
24 advisory committee shall prepare and submit a report to the
25 governor and the legislature. The report must:

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

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

3 (3) provide recommendations on:

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

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

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

11 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE. The advisory committee is
12 abolished and this Act expires January 10, 2027.

13 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
14 1, 2025.