



Sen. Terry Link

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 730

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 730 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the First
5 Responders Suicide Prevention Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that:

8 (1) This State's first responders are tasked with work that
9 is highly stressful if one continually faces the impact of
10 murder, violence, accidents, serious injury, and death. The day
11 in and day out impact of these situations wreak havoc
12 personally and professionally on those who serve their
13 communities. Work as a first responder is a combination of
14 extreme boredom with incidents of mind-numbing terror. No
15 person, no matter how highly trained or well-adjusted, is
16 immune to the long-term impact of cumulative stress or sudden

1 critical incidents.

2 (2) Since September 11, 2001, the role of first responders
3 has changed dramatically. First responders have become the
4 teachers, advocates, counselors, enforcement, and safety to
5 those they serve, yet year after year, police and firefighters
6 always rank at the top for the most stressful jobs in this
7 country. The demands of shift work, change in politics and
8 public policy, and having to make life changing decisions
9 within seconds are all contributing factors in the mental
10 health and welfare of our public servants. Alcoholism, divorce,
11 depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD),
12 stress-related health issues, and suicide among first
13 responders are constantly well above the national average. The
14 health and well-being of first responders not only affect the
15 officer or firefighter, but those who work closely around the
16 first responder and the public he or she serves and protects.

17 (3) The purpose of this Act is to allow agencies to train
18 personnel in peer counseling. This allows firefighters and law
19 enforcement officers to have access to trained persons within
20 their respective fields to speak to and seek guidance during
21 difficult and challenging times in their careers and lives.
22 Most first responders feel comfortable speaking to others
23 within their profession that have experienced similar
24 situations. Allowing this type of counseling gives public
25 servants the ability to seek help during trying times with the
26 confidence of knowing their issue is held in confidence with

1 someone who understands. No longer should these public servants
2 have to suffer in silence.

3 (4) Maintaining an emotional and mentally healthy class of
4 first responders should be a priority goal to achieve. Healthy
5 police make better decisions, increase productivity, create
6 better work environments, and respond to society in a much more
7 open and effective manner.

8 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

9 "Emergency services provider" means any public employer
10 that employs persons to provide firefighting services.

11 "Emergency services personnel" means any employee of an
12 emergency services provider who is engaged in providing
13 firefighting services.

14 "Employee assistance program" means a program established
15 by a law enforcement agency or emergency services provider to
16 provide counseling support services to employees of the law
17 enforcement agency or emergency services provider, including
18 peer support counselors who have received training in
19 counseling and moral support.

20 "Law enforcement agency" means any county sheriff,
21 municipal police department, police department established by
22 a university, Department of State Police, Department of
23 Corrections, Department of Children and Family Services,
24 Division of Probation Services of the Supreme Court, the Office
25 of the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator, and other local or county

1 agency comprised of county probation officers, corrections
2 employees, or 9-1-1 telecommunicators or emergency medical
3 dispatchers.

4 "Peer support counseling session" means communication with
5 a counselor through an employee assistance program or a trained
6 peer support counselor designated by the emergency services
7 provider or law enforcement agency.

8 "Public safety personnel" means any employee of a law
9 enforcement agency.

10 Section 15. Establishment of employee assistance program;
11 applicability.

12 (a) This Act applies to peer support counseling sessions
13 conducted by an employee or other person who:

14 (1) has been designated by a law enforcement agency or
15 emergency services provider or by an employee assistance
16 program to act as a counselor; and

17 (2) has received training in counseling to provide
18 emotional and moral support to public safety personnel or
19 emergency services personnel who have been involved in
20 emotionally traumatic incidents by reason of their
21 employment that may affect their ability to execute their
22 respective duties.

23 (b) An emergency services provider or law enforcement
24 agency may establish an employee assistance program to assist
25 emergency services personnel and public safety personnel,

1 including designating a person within the emergency services
2 provider or law enforcement agency to act as a peer support
3 counselor. An emergency services provider or law enforcement
4 agency shall give appropriate training in counseling to provide
5 emotional and moral support to persons designated as a peer
6 support counselor. Emergency services personnel and public
7 safety personnel may refer any person to an employee assistance
8 program or peer support counselor within the emergency services
9 provider or law enforcement agency, or if those services are
10 not available within the agency, to another employee assistance
11 program or peer support counseling program that is available.

12 Section 20. Confidentiality; exemptions.

13 (a) Any communication made by a participant or counselor in
14 a peer support counseling session conducted by a law
15 enforcement agency or by an emergency services provider for
16 public safety personnel or emergency services personnel and any
17 oral or written information conveyed in the peer support
18 counseling session is confidential and may not be disclosed by
19 any person participating in the peer support counseling
20 session.

21 (b) Any communication relating to a peer support counseling
22 session made confidential under this Section that is made
23 between counselors, between counselors and the supervisors or
24 staff of an employee assistance program, or between the
25 supervisor or staff of an employee assistance program, is

1 confidential and may not be disclosed.

2 (c) This Section does not prohibit any communications
3 between counselors who conduct peer support counseling
4 sessions or any communications between counselors and the
5 supervisors or staff of an employee assistance program.

6 (d) This Section does not apply to:

7 (1) any threat of suicide or homicide made by a
8 participant in a peer counseling session or any information
9 conveyed in a peer support counseling session related to a
10 threat of suicide or homicide;

11 (2) any information relating to the abuse of children
12 or of the elderly or other information that is required to
13 be reported by law; or

14 (3) any admission or knowledge of criminal conduct.

15 (e) All communications, notes, records, and reports
16 arising out of a peer support counseling session shall be
17 exempt from inspection and copying under the Freedom of
18 Information Act.

19 (f) A cause of action exists for public safety personnel or
20 emergency services personnel if the emergency services
21 provider or law enforcement agency uses confidential
22 information obtained during a confidential peer support
23 counseling session conducted by a law enforcement agency or by
24 an emergency services provider for an adverse employment action
25 against the participant.

1 Section 25. Judicial proceedings.

2 (a) Any oral communication or written information made or
3 conveyed by a participant or counselor in a peer support
4 session, including an employee assistance program, is not
5 admissible in any judicial proceeding, arbitration proceeding,
6 or other adjudicatory proceeding, except to the extent
7 necessary in an action described in subsection (f) of Section
8 20 or if related to information obtained under subsection (d)
9 of Section 20.

10 (b) Nothing in this Section limits the discovery or
11 introduction into evidence, knowledge acquired by any public
12 safety personnel or emergency services personnel from
13 observations made during the course of employment or material
14 or information acquired during the course of employment that is
15 otherwise subject to discovery in evidence.

16 Section 110. The Department of State Police Law of the
17 Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by adding
18 Section 2605-99 as follows:

19 (20 ILCS 2605/2605-99 new)

20 Sec. 2605-99. Training; suicide prevention. The
21 Department, in consultation with a statewide association that
22 represents public pension funds under Article 3 and Article 4
23 of the Illinois Pension Code, shall conduct or approve a 2-day
24 in-service training program for State Police officers in

1 job-related stress management and suicide prevention. The
2 in-service training program shall train State Police officers
3 to recognize signs of work-related cumulative stress and other
4 related issues that may lead to suicide and offer appropriate
5 solutions for intervention. This in-service training program
6 shall be completed every 2 years by each State Police officer.
7 The Department shall establish the training program on or
8 before January 1, 2020.

9 Section 115. The Illinois Police Training Act is amended by
10 changing Section 7 and by adding Section 10.17-2 as follows:

11 (50 ILCS 705/7) (from Ch. 85, par. 507)

12 Sec. 7. Rules and standards for schools. The Board shall
13 adopt rules and minimum standards for such schools which shall
14 include, but not be limited to, the following:

15 a. The curriculum for probationary police officers
16 which shall be offered by all certified schools shall
17 include, but not be limited to, courses of procedural
18 justice, arrest and use and control tactics, search and
19 seizure, including temporary questioning, civil rights,
20 human rights, human relations, cultural competency,
21 including implicit bias and racial and ethnic sensitivity,
22 criminal law, law of criminal procedure, constitutional
23 and proper use of law enforcement authority, vehicle and
24 traffic law including uniform and non-discriminatory

1 enforcement of the Illinois Vehicle Code, traffic control
2 and accident investigation, techniques of obtaining
3 physical evidence, court testimonies, statements, reports,
4 firearms training, training in the use of electronic
5 control devices, including the psychological and
6 physiological effects of the use of those devices on
7 humans, first-aid (including cardiopulmonary
8 resuscitation), training in the administration of opioid
9 antagonists as defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (e)
10 of Section 5-23 of the Substance Use Disorder Act, handling
11 of juvenile offenders, recognition of mental conditions
12 and crises, including, but not limited to, the disease of
13 addiction, which require immediate assistance and response
14 and methods to safeguard and provide assistance to a person
15 in need of mental treatment, recognition of abuse, neglect,
16 financial exploitation, and self-neglect of adults with
17 disabilities and older adults, as defined in Section 2 of
18 the Adult Protective Services Act, crimes against the
19 elderly, law of evidence, the hazards of high-speed police
20 vehicle chases with an emphasis on alternatives to the
21 high-speed chase, and physical training. The curriculum
22 shall include specific training in techniques for
23 immediate response to and investigation of cases of
24 domestic violence and of sexual assault of adults and
25 children, including cultural perceptions and common myths
26 of sexual assault and sexual abuse as well as interview

1 techniques that are age sensitive and are trauma informed,
2 victim centered, and victim sensitive. The curriculum
3 shall include training in techniques designed to promote
4 effective communication at the initial contact with crime
5 victims and ways to comprehensively explain to victims and
6 witnesses their rights under the Rights of Crime Victims
7 and Witnesses Act and the Crime Victims Compensation Act.
8 The curriculum shall also include training in effective
9 recognition of and responses to stress, trauma, and
10 post-traumatic stress experienced by police officers. The
11 curriculum shall also include a block of instruction aimed
12 at identifying and interacting with persons with autism and
13 other developmental or physical disabilities, reducing
14 barriers to reporting crimes against persons with autism,
15 and addressing the unique challenges presented by cases
16 involving victims or witnesses with autism and other
17 developmental disabilities. The curriculum for permanent
18 police officers shall include, but not be limited to: (1)
19 refresher and in-service training in any of the courses
20 listed above in this subparagraph, (2) advanced courses in
21 any of the subjects listed above in this subparagraph, (3)
22 training for supervisory personnel, and (4) specialized
23 training in subjects and fields to be selected by the
24 board. The training in the use of electronic control
25 devices shall be conducted for probationary police
26 officers, including University police officers.

1 b. Minimum courses of study, attendance requirements
2 and equipment requirements.

3 c. Minimum requirements for instructors.

4 d. Minimum basic training requirements, which a
5 probationary police officer must satisfactorily complete
6 before being eligible for permanent employment as a local
7 law enforcement officer for a participating local
8 governmental agency. Those requirements shall include
9 training in first aid (including cardiopulmonary
10 resuscitation).

11 e. Minimum basic training requirements, which a
12 probationary county corrections officer must
13 satisfactorily complete before being eligible for
14 permanent employment as a county corrections officer for a
15 participating local governmental agency.

16 f. Minimum basic training requirements which a
17 probationary court security officer must satisfactorily
18 complete before being eligible for permanent employment as
19 a court security officer for a participating local
20 governmental agency. The Board shall establish those
21 training requirements which it considers appropriate for
22 court security officers and shall certify schools to
23 conduct that training.

24 A person hired to serve as a court security officer
25 must obtain from the Board a certificate (i) attesting to
26 his or her successful completion of the training course;

1 (ii) attesting to his or her satisfactory completion of a
2 training program of similar content and number of hours
3 that has been found acceptable by the Board under the
4 provisions of this Act; or (iii) attesting to the Board's
5 determination that the training course is unnecessary
6 because of the person's extensive prior law enforcement
7 experience.

8 Individuals who currently serve as court security
9 officers shall be deemed qualified to continue to serve in
10 that capacity so long as they are certified as provided by
11 this Act within 24 months of June 1, 1997 (the effective
12 date of Public Act 89-685). Failure to be so certified,
13 absent a waiver from the Board, shall cause the officer to
14 forfeit his or her position.

15 All individuals hired as court security officers on or
16 after June 1, 1997 (the effective date of Public Act
17 89-685) shall be certified within 12 months of the date of
18 their hire, unless a waiver has been obtained by the Board,
19 or they shall forfeit their positions.

20 The Sheriff's Merit Commission, if one exists, or the
21 Sheriff's Office if there is no Sheriff's Merit Commission,
22 shall maintain a list of all individuals who have filed
23 applications to become court security officers and who meet
24 the eligibility requirements established under this Act.
25 Either the Sheriff's Merit Commission, or the Sheriff's
26 Office if no Sheriff's Merit Commission exists, shall

1 establish a schedule of reasonable intervals for
2 verification of the applicants' qualifications under this
3 Act and as established by the Board.

4 g. Minimum in-service training requirements, which a
5 police officer must satisfactorily complete every 3 years.
6 Those requirements shall include constitutional and proper
7 use of law enforcement authority, procedural justice,
8 civil rights, human rights, mental health awareness and
9 response, officer wellness, and cultural competency.

10 h. Minimum in-service training requirements, which a
11 police officer must satisfactorily complete at least
12 annually. Those requirements shall include law updates and
13 use of force training which shall include scenario based
14 training, or similar training approved by the Board.

15 (Source: P.A. 99-352, eff. 1-1-16; 99-480, eff. 9-9-15; 99-642,
16 eff. 7-28-16; 99-801, eff. 1-1-17; 100-121, eff. 1-1-18;
17 100-247, eff. 1-1-18; 100-759, eff. 1-1-19; 100-863, eff.
18 8-14-18; 100-910, eff. 1-1-19; revised 9-28-19.)

19 (50 ILCS 705/10.17-2 new)

20 Sec. 10.17-2. Training; suicide prevention. The Board, in
21 consultation with a statewide association that represents
22 public pension funds under Article 3 and Article 4 of the
23 Illinois Pension Code, shall conduct or approve an in-service
24 training program for law enforcement officers in job-related
25 stress management and suicide prevention. The in-service

1 training program shall train law enforcement officers of local
2 government agencies to recognize signs of work-related
3 cumulative stress and other related issues that may lead to
4 suicide and offer appropriate solutions for intervention. This
5 in-service training program shall be completed every 3 years by
6 each local law enforcement officer. The Board shall establish
7 the training program on or before January 1, 2020.

8 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
9 becoming law.".