

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1938

5 By: Representative Wing
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH COMPULSORY TRAINING STANDARDS FOR
9 PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES FOR THE RECOGNITION AND
10 MANAGEMENT OF STRESS, SELF-CARE TECHNIQUES, MENTAL
11 HEALTH AWARENESS, AND RESILIENCY; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO ESTABLISH COMPULSORY TRAINING
16 STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES FOR
17 THE RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF STRESS,
18 SELF-CARE TECHNIQUES, MENTAL HEALTH
19 AWARENESS, AND RESILIENCY.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 75, Subchapter 1, is
26 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 12-75-135. Mental health awareness training.

28 (a) A public safety agency shall develop curricula for mental health
29 awareness training for the personnel of the public safety agency, including
30 without limitation:

31 (1) Understanding signs and symptoms of cumulative stress,
32 depression, anxiety, exposure to acute and chronic trauma, compulsive
33 behaviors, and addiction;

34 (2) Combating and overcoming mental health stigmas;

35 (3) Responding appropriately to aggressive behaviors including
36 domestic violence and harassment;



1 (4) Managing stress, using self-care techniques, and developing
2 resilience; and

3 (5) Accessing available mental health treatment and resources
4 and public and private crisis referral agencies.

5 (b) A public safety agency may develop the mental health awareness
6 training curricula required under this section in conjunction with one (1) or
7 more public safety agencies or appropriate entities or may use any training
8 program that satisfies the criteria under subsection (a) of this section.

9 (c) A person who receives training under this section shall receive
10 appropriate continuing education credits from the relevant licensing entity.

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12 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after January
13 1, 2022.