

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1680

5 By: Representatives Richardson, Slape
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING FOR
9 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

Subtitle

11 CONCERNING CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING
12 FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 6, Subchapter 7, is amended
20 to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 12-6-702. Critical incident debriefing.

22 (a) As used in this section, "critical incident" means an event that
23 has a stressful impact sufficient to overwhelm a person's usually effective
24 coping skills, including an event that falls outside the range of ordinary
25 human experience.

26 (b) A law enforcement agency shall adopt a policy that:

27 (1) May require a law enforcement officer who has been involved
28 in a critical incident to participate in a debriefing by a mental health
29 professional or a certified peer support member as defined under § 16-40-106;
30 and

31 (2) Shall require the law enforcement agency to assist a law
32 enforcement officer who has been involved in a critical incident in obtaining
33 additional services that may assist the law enforcement officer in recovering
34 from psychological effects resulting from the critical incident.
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36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-9-102, concerning definitions used in



1 regards to the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training,
 2 is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

3 (4) "Critical incident" means the same as defined in § 12-6-702.
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5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 12-9-118(b)(2), concerning policies for a
 6 law enforcement agency, is amended to read as follows:

7 (2) The proposed or enacted law enforcement agency policies,
 8 including without limitation policies regarding:

9 (A) Use of force;

10 (B) Vehicle pursuit;

11 (C) Professional conduct of law enforcement officers to be
 12 employed by the law enforcement agency; ~~and~~

13 (D) Biased-based policing; and

14 (E) Critical incident debriefing;
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16 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, is amended
 17 to add an additional section to read as follows:

18 12-9-125. Mental and behavioral health counseling.

19 (a) A law enforcement officer employed by a public law enforcement
 20 agency shall submit to mental and behavioral health counseling by a third-
 21 party trained medical professional:

22 (1) Every five (5) years; and

23 (2) After responding to or being involved in the investigation
 24 or prosecution of an offense during which a person was killed or seriously
 25 physically injured or a minor was physically injured.

26 (b) The mental and behavioral health counseling described in this
 27 section is a requirement in order to serve as a law enforcement officer
 28 employed by a public law enforcement agency.

29 (c) The public law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement
 30 officer shall provide a third-party trained medical professional to perform
 31 the mental and behavioral health counseling.

32 (d) The results of the mental and behavioral health counseling under
 33 this section shall be given to the law enforcement officer and to his or her
 34 direct supervisor and employer and shall be included in the personnel file of
 35 the law enforcement officer.
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