

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

As Engrossed: H4/12/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1877

5 By: Representatives Pilkington, Scott, *Richardson*
6 By: Senator J. Dismang
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING FOR
10 FIREFIGHTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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13 CONCERNING CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING
14 FOR FIREFIGHTERS.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 22, Subchapter 1, is
21 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 20-22-101. Critical incident debriefing – Definition.

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

27 (b) A local government that maintains a fire department shall adopt a
28 policy that:

29 (1) Shall make available to a firefighter who has been involved
30 in a critical incident the opportunity to participate in a debriefing by a
31 mental health professional or a certified peer support member as defined
32 under § 16-40-106; and

33 (2) Shall require the fire department to assist a firefighter
34 who has been involved in a critical incident in obtaining additional services
35 that may assist the firefighter in recovering from psychological effects
36 resulting from the critical incident.



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/s/Pilkington