

AN ACT

relating to adoption by law enforcement agencies of a mental health leave policy for peace officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 614, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter A-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A-1. MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE

Sec. 614.015. MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE FOR PEACE OFFICERS. (a) In this section, "law enforcement agency" means an agency of the state or an agency of a political subdivision of the state authorized by law to employ peace officers.

(b) Each law enforcement agency shall develop and adopt a policy allowing the use of mental health leave by the peace officers employed by the agency who experience a traumatic event in the scope of that employment.

(c) The mental health leave policy adopted under this section must:

(1) provide clear and objective guidelines establishing the circumstances under which a peace officer is granted mental health leave and may use mental health leave;

(2) entitle a peace officer to mental health leave without a deduction in salary or other compensation;

(3) enumerate the number of mental health leave days available to a peace officer; and

(4) detail the level of anonymity for a peace officer who takes mental health leave.

(d) The mental health leave policy adopted under this section may provide a list of mental health services available to peace officers in the area of the law enforcement agency.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, each law enforcement agency shall develop the mental health leave policy required by Section 614.015, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1359 passed the Senate on April 29, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1359 passed the House on May 23, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 5, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House