



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.".