



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB5485

by Rep. Bradley Stephens

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

5 ILCS 840/5
5 ILCS 840/10

Amends the First Responders Suicide Prevention Act. Provides that peer support advisors shall also receive appropriate training in identifying the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and to respond appropriately to individuals exhibiting those symptoms. Provides that "post-traumatic stress disorder" has the meaning defined by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board in its implementation of its training in post-traumatic stress disorder under the Illinois Police Training Act.

LRB101 18254 RLC 67698 b

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The First Responders Suicide Prevention Act is
5 amended by changing Sections 5 and 10 as follows:

6 (5 ILCS 840/5)

7 Sec. 5. Definitions. In this Act:

8 "Emergency services provider" means any public employer
9 that employs persons to provide firefighting services.

10 "Emergency services personnel" means any employee of an
11 emergency services provider who is engaged in providing
12 firefighting services.

13 "Law enforcement agency" means any county sheriff,
14 municipal police department, police department established by
15 a university, the Department of State Police, the Department of
16 Corrections, the Department of Children and Family Services,
17 the Division of Probation Services of the Supreme Court, the
18 Office of the Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator, and other local or
19 county agency comprised of county probation officers,
20 corrections employees, or 9-1-1 telecommunicators or emergency
21 medical dispatchers.

22 "Peer support advisor" means an employee, approved by the
23 law enforcement agency or the emergency provider, who

1 voluntarily provides confidential support and assistance to
2 fellow employees experiencing personal or professional
3 problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder. An
4 emergency services provider or law enforcement agency shall
5 provide peer support advisors with an appropriate level of
6 training in counseling to provide emotional and moral support.

7 "Peer support counseling program" means a program
8 established by an emergency services provider, a law
9 enforcement agency, or collective bargaining organization to
10 train employees to serve as peer support advisors to conduct
11 peer support counseling sessions.

12 "Peer support counseling session" means communication with
13 a peer support advisor designated by an emergency services
14 provider or law enforcement agency. A peer support counseling
15 session is accomplished primarily through listening,
16 assessing, assisting with problem-solving, making referrals to
17 a professional when necessary and conducting follow-up as
18 needed.

19 "Post-traumatic stress disorder" has the meaning defined
20 by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board in its
21 implementation of Section 10.13 of the Illinois Police Training
22 Act.

23 "Public safety personnel" means any employee of a law
24 enforcement agency.

25 (Source: P.A. 101-375, eff. 8-16-19.)

1 (5 ILCS 840/10)

2 Sec. 10. Establishment of peer support program;
3 applicability. Any emergency services provider, law
4 enforcement agency, or collective bargaining organization that
5 creates a peer support program is subject to this Act. An
6 emergency services provider, law enforcement agency, or
7 collective bargaining organization shall ensure that peer
8 support advisors receive appropriate training in counseling to
9 conduct peer support counseling sessions. Peer support
10 advisors shall also receive appropriate training in
11 identifying the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and
12 to respond appropriately to individuals exhibiting those
13 symptoms. Emergency services personnel and public safety
14 personnel may refer any person to a peer support advisor within
15 the emergency services provider or law enforcement agency, or
16 if those services are not available within the agency, to
17 another peer support counseling program that is available and
18 approved by the emergency services provider or law enforcement
19 agency. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, public
20 safety personnel may not mandate that any employee participate
21 in a peer support counseling program.

22 (Source: P.A. 101-375, eff. 8-16-19.)