

2020 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1142**AMENDMENT 1142B FOR THE INTRODUCED BILL**

This bill has been extensively amended (hoghoused) and may no longer be consistent with the original intention of the sponsor.

1 **An Act to provide for a study of post-traumatic stress disorder among first**
2 **responders.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

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6 **Section 1.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

7 **Post-traumatic stress disorder—Study committee.**

8 A study committee is created for the purpose of examining issues related to post-
9 traumatic stress disorder among first responders, during the period beginning July 1,
10 2020, and ending December 31, 2020. The committee must consist of:

11 (1) Three members of the Legislature, appointed by the Executive Board of the
12 Legislative Research Council, provided two of the members are from the majority
13 party and one member is from the minority party;

14 (2) The secretary of the department of public safety, or the secretary's designee;

15 (3) The secretary of the department of health, or the secretary's designee;

16 (4) One first responder appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees
17 submitted by the South Dakota Fire Chiefs Association;

18 (5) One first responder appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees
19 submitted by the South Dakota Police Chiefs Association;

20 (6) One individual appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees submitted
21 by the South Dakota Municipal League;

22 (7) One licensed psychologist appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees
23 submitted by the South Dakota Psychological Association, provided the individual

1 has a specialty in post-traumatic stress disorder, has experience in law
2 enforcement psychology, or has a background in law, criminology, or any other
3 relevant specialty; and
4 (8) One individual appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees submitted
5 by the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners.
6 Any vacancy on the committee is to be filled in the same manner as the original
7 appointment.

8 **Section 2.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

9 **Post-traumatic stress disorder study—Content—Report--Funding.**

10 The committee created in section 1 of this Act shall examine:

- 11 (1) The prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder among first responders;
12 (2) The extent to which first responders' employment benefits provide health insurance
13 coverage for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder;
14 (3) The extent to which the state, political subdivisions, and private sector employers
15 provide services to first responders to address post-traumatic stress disorder, and
16 the sufficiency of any existing services;
17 (4) The degree to which employers of first responders are able to reassign employees
18 affected by post-traumatic stress disorder to less stressful positions, in order that
19 they may continue employment while receiving mental health services;
20 (5) The difficulty in establishing that post-traumatic stress disorder is causally related
21 to the line of employment;
22 (6) The cost to employers and taxpayers from creating a rebuttal presumption that
23 post-traumatic stress disorder occurred as a result of service in the line of duty,
24 and ways to mitigate such cost;
25 (7) The high rates of suicide among emergency responders and linkages of those rates
26 to:
27 (a) Occupational stress;
28 (b) Exposure to emotional trauma;
29 (c) Medication;
30 (d) Substance abuse;
31 (e) Disciplinary action; and
32 (f) Interaction with the criminal and civil court system;
33 (8) State policies that increase the stress levels for or suicide rates of emergency
34 responders; and

- 1 (9) Any other issues deemed relevant to the study.
2 The committee shall report any findings and recommendations, including any
3 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the Executive Board of the
4 Legislative Research Council and the Governor, on or before December 1, 2020.
5 The committee shall be funded and staffed as an interim legislative committee.
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