

2020 South Dakota Legislature

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

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 party~~
13 ~~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 first responder appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees~~
21 ~~submitted by the South Dakota Sheriffs Association;~~

22 ~~(7) One individual appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees~~
23 ~~submitted by the South Dakota Municipal League;~~

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

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

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

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

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

1 ~~(8) State policies that increase the stress levels for or suicide rates of emergency~~
2 ~~responders; and~~

3 ~~(9) Any other issues deemed relevant to the study.~~

4 The committee shall report any findings and recommendations, including any
5 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the Executive Board of the
6 Legislative Research Council and the Governor, ~~on or before December 1, 2020.~~

7 The committee shall be funded and staffed as an interim legislative committee.
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