

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1938

By: Representative Wing

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH COMPULSORY TRAINING STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES FOR THE RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF STRESS, SELF-CARE TECHNIQUES, MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS, AND RESILIENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH COMPULSORY TRAINING STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES FOR THE RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF STRESS, SELF-CARE TECHNIQUES, MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS, AND RESILIENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 75, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12-75-135. Mental health awareness training.

(a) A public safety agency shall develop curricula for mental health awareness training for the personnel of the public safety agency, including without limitation:

(1) Understanding signs and symptoms of cumulative stress, depression, anxiety, exposure to acute and chronic trauma, compulsive behaviors, and addiction;

(2) Combating and overcoming mental health stigmas;

(3) Responding appropriately to aggressive behaviors including domestic violence and harassment;



(4) Managing stress, using self-care techniques, and developing resilience; and

(5) Accessing available mental health treatment and resources and public and private crisis referral agencies.

(b) A public safety agency may develop the mental health awareness training curricula required under this section in conjunction with one (1) or more public safety agencies or appropriate entities or may use any training program that satisfies the criteria under subsection (a) of this section.

(c) A person who receives training under this section shall receive appropriate continuing education credits from the relevant licensing entity.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after January 1, 2022.

APPROVED: 4/30/21