

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: H4/12/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1877

By: Representatives Pilkington, Scott, *Richardson*

By: Senator J. Dismang

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING FOR
FIREFIGHTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING
FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 22, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-22-101. Critical incident debriefing – Definition.

(a) As used in this section, "critical incident" means an event that has a stressful impact sufficient to overwhelm a person's usually effective coping skills, including an event that falls outside the range of ordinary human experience.

(b) A local government that maintains a fire department shall adopt a policy that:

(1) Shall make available to a firefighter who has been involved in a critical incident the opportunity to participate in a debriefing by a mental health professional or a certified peer support member as defined under § 16-40-106; and

(2) Shall require the fire department to assist a firefighter who has been involved in a critical incident in obtaining additional services that may assist the firefighter in recovering from psychological effects resulting from the critical incident.



/s/Pilkington

APPROVED: 4/26/21