

By Senator Hooper

16-01208-20

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the First Responders Suicide
3 Deterrence Task Force; amending s. 14.2019, F.S.;
4 establishing the task force adjunct to the Statewide
5 Office for Suicide Prevention of the Department of
6 Children and Families; specifying the task force's
7 purpose; providing for the composition and the duties
8 of the task force; requiring the task force to submit
9 reports to the Governor and the Legislature on an
10 annual basis; providing for future repeal; providing
11 an effective date.

12
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 14.2019,
16 Florida Statutes, to read:

17 14.2019 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.—

18 (5) The First Responders Suicide Deterrence Task Force, a
19 task force as defined in s. 20.03(8), is created adjunct to the
20 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.

21 (a) The purpose of the task force is to make
22 recommendations on how to reduce the incidence of suicide and
23 attempted suicide among employed or retired first responders in
24 this state.

25 (b) The task force is composed of a representative of the
26 statewide office and a representative of each of the following
27 first responder organizations, nominated by the organization and
28 appointed by the Secretary of Children and Families:

29 1. The Florida Professional Firefighters.

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30 2. The Florida Police Benevolent Association: Florida
31 Highway Patrol Bargaining Unit.

32 3. The Florida Police Benevolent Association: Law
33 Enforcement Bargaining Unit.

34 4. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

35 5. The Florida Police Chiefs Association.

36 (c) The task force shall elect a chair from among its
37 membership. Except as otherwise provided, the task force shall
38 operate in a manner consistent with s. 20.052.

39 (d) The task force shall identify or make recommendations
40 on developing training programs and materials that would better
41 enable first responders to cope with personal life stressors and
42 stress related to their profession and foster an organizational
43 culture that:

44 1. Promotes mutual support and solidarity among active and
45 retired first responders;

46 2. Trains agency supervisors and managers to identify
47 suicidal risk among active and retired first responders;

48 3. Improves the use and awareness of existing resources
49 among active and retired first responders; and

50 4. Educates active and retired first responders on suicide
51 awareness and help-seeking.

52 (e) The task force shall identify state and federal public
53 resources, funding and grants, first responder association
54 resources, and private resources to implement identified
55 training programs and materials.

56 (f) The task force shall report on its findings and
57 recommendations for training programs and materials to deter
58 suicide among active and retired first responders to the

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59 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
60 House of Representatives by each July 1, beginning in 2021, and
61 through 2023.

62 (g) This subsection is repealed July 1, 2023.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.