

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and  
Senators Hooper and Perry

586-02773-20

20201586c1

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.

31 3. The Florida Fraternal Order of Police: State Lodge.

32 4. The Florida Sheriffs Association.

33 5. The Florida Police Chiefs Association.

34 6. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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59 House of Representatives by each July 1, beginning in 2021, and  
60 through 2023.

61 (g) This subsection is repealed July 1, 2023.

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