
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1551 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DAWKINS, BULLOCK, RABB, KINSEY, HILL-EVANS AND
McCLINTON, JUNE 3, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 3, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for mental health
3 evaluations.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 96

9 MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATIONS

10 Subchapter

11 A. Preliminary Provisions

12 B. General Provisions

13 SUBCHAPTER A

14 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

15 Sec.

16 9601. Scope of chapter.

17 9602. Definitions.

18 § 9601. Scope of chapter.

1 This chapter relates to mental health evaluations for law
2 enforcement officers.

3 § 9602. Definitions.

4 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
6 context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Desk duty." An administrative law enforcement duty that is
8 designed to limit a law enforcement officer's day-to-day work-
9 related interactions with the public.

10 "Law enforcement officer." A member of the Pennsylvania
11 State Police or an individual employed as a police officer who
12 is required to be trained under 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D
13 (relating to municipal police education and training).

14 SUBCHAPTER B

15 GENERAL PROVISIONS

16 Sec.

17 9603. Mental health evaluations for law enforcement officers.

18 § 9603. Mental health evaluations for law enforcement officers.

19 (a) Evaluations.--As a condition of continued employment, a
20 law enforcement officer shall undergo a mental health evaluation
21 for posttraumatic stress disorder by a licensed mental health
22 professional:

23 (1) biennially; and

24 (2) within 30 days of an incident of the use of lethal
25 force during the course of law enforcement duties.

26 (b) Treatment.--If a licensed mental health professional
27 determines during the mental health evaluation under subsection
28 (a) that a law enforcement officer has symptoms of posttraumatic
29 stress disorder, the law enforcement officer shall seek
30 treatment under a licensed physician's care. The law enforcement

1 officer shall receive treatment under a licensed physician's
2 care until the law enforcement officer ceases experiencing
3 symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder.

4 (c) Desk duty.--A law enforcement officer shall be assigned
5 to desk duty if the law enforcement officer:

6 (1) fails to undergo a mental health evaluation for
7 posttraumatic stress disorder under subsection (a);

8 (2) is experiencing symptoms of posttraumatic stress
9 disorder as determined by a licensed mental health
10 professional under subsection (a); or

11 (3) is receiving treatment by a licensed physician under
12 subsection (b).

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect in two years.