

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

March 31, 2022

Chair of Committee

Date

Committee on Judiciary.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

SB22-005 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2 after line 1 insert:

2 **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general
3 assembly finds and declares that:

4 (a) According to the centers for disease control and prevention,
5 peace officers are fifty-four percent more likely to commit suicide, with
6 suicide being the second leading cause of death among peace officers
7 following COVID-19;

8 (b) The Invisible Wounds Project found that one in four peace
9 officers suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder;

10 (c) Good mental and psychological health is essential for peace
11 officers to effectively keep Colorado and local communities safe from
12 crime and violence;

13 (d) Improving mental health resiliency can also help peace
14 officers prepare for, recover from, and adapt to stress and adversity;

15 (e) The experiences of peace officers and public safety mental
16 health professionals, along with scientific research, show that providing
17 peace officers with mental health support services following traumatic
18 incidents promotes positive outcomes;

19 (f) Allowing law enforcement agencies to hire full-time
20 behavioral health professionals can aid in addressing confidentiality
21 concerns, improve cultural competencies, and help law enforcement
22 agencies systematically identify and refer peace officers to mental health
23 services;

24 (g) Increased availability to behavioral health services will
25 increase peace officers' empathy toward those experiencing mental health
26 crises and provide the tools and awareness peace officers need to improve
27 how they handle difficult situations;

1 (h) Improved access to behavioral health support services through
2 peer support programs and other programs reduces barriers peace officers
3 may have toward behavioral health support services and will increase
4 their cultural competency in behavioral health support practices;
5 (i) Cross-training peace officers in behavioral health and
6 providing student loan repayment options for current and former certified
7 peace officers to receive this training can increase empathy; and
8 (j) While behavioral health training is essential for peace officers,
9 there is no training or experience that can fully prepare them for the types
10 of calls and situational challenges they face on a daily basis. Investing in
11 tools and programs to help peace officers manage the stressors that
12 accompany their work can have a positive impact on peace officers'
13 mental health, as well as on community outcomes.
14 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that investing in
15 additional mental and behavioral health funding and training for peace
16 officers will improve interactions between peace officers and members
17 of the community, have positive public safety outcomes, and help peace
18 officers recover from on-the-job trauma in order to handle the daily
19 stressors of their job."

20 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

21 Page 2, strike lines 2 through 16.

22 Strike page 3.

23 Page 4, strike lines 1 through 26.

24 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

25 Page 5, strike line 1 and substitute "(2)(e), (2)(f), (4), and (7)(a); and **add**
26 (2)(g) and (9) as follows:".

27 Page 5, after line 13 insert:

28 "(4) The department shall administer the grant program and,
29 subject to available appropriations, shall award grants as provided in this
30 section from the fund created in subsection (7) of this section. THE
31 DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSFER THE AWARDED GRANT MONEY TO A GRANT
32 RECIPIENT AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE GRANT RECIPIENT'S
33 GRANT APPLICATION IS APPROVED.

34 (7) (a) The peace officers behavioral health support and
35 community partnership fund, referred to in this section as the "fund", is
36 created in the state treasury. The fund consists of gifts, grants, and

1 donations credited to the fund pursuant to subsection (7)(b) of this section
2 and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or
3 transfer to the fund. ~~Subject to annual appropriation by the general~~
4 ~~assembly, the department may expend money from the fund for the~~
5 ~~purposes of this section. The department may use up to five percent of the~~
6 ~~money annually appropriated to the fund to pay the direct and indirect~~
7 ~~costs that the department incurs in administering the grant program~~ THE
8 MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE DIRECT
9 AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
10 SECTION."

11 Page 5, line 17, after "FUND." add "THE MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT
12 TO THIS SECTION MUST BE USED FOR PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS
13 (2)(c) TO (2)(g) OF THIS SECTION. THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED,
14 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026."

15 Page 5, strike lines 18 through 26 and substitute:
16 "SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
17 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety."

19 Page 1, line 102, after "OFFICER" insert "SUPPORTIVE".

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