

HB 2575 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/30/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-1-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Bynum, Dexter, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Noble, Power, Wilde

Nays: 1 - Wallan

Exc: 1 - Helm

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/3, 3/8, 3/15, 3/17, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish a program for awarding grants to law enforcement agencies and local governments to fund training for groups and agencies that interact with persons who have experienced trauma. Specifies agencies eligible for grants under program and directs DOJ to develop outcome measures to be used for evaluating grant program performance. Directs DOJ to develop model training program that takes into account effects of trauma and to develop best practices, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, for law enforcement agencies when interacting with persons who have experienced trauma. Requires law enforcement agencies to adopt appropriate best practice policies by date specified by Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. Directs Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to review and update training consistent with DOJ model training program for law enforcement personnel in training academy. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to DOJ for purpose of awarding training grants. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of trauma-informed investigations
- Examples of agencies using trauma-informed practices
- Minimize traumatic impact to of contacts with police officers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies deadline requirements established by measure. Replaces the term police officer with law enforcement personnel. Specifies agencies eligible for grants under program and directs the department to develop outcome measures to be used for evaluating grant program performance.

BACKGROUND:

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), people in the juvenile and criminal justice system reveal high rates of mental and substance use disorders and personal histories of trauma. A review of many public institutions and service systems that are intended to provide services and supports to individuals has found they are often themselves trauma-inducing. Additionally, it has become evident that addressing trauma requires a multi-pronged, multi-agency public health approach inclusive of public education and awareness, prevention and early identification, and effective trauma-specific assessments and responses. In public institutions and service systems, there is increasing recognition that many of the individuals have extensive histories of trauma that, left unaddressed, can get in the way of achieving well-being. As a result, there is an increasing focus on the impact of

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trauma and how service systems may help to alleviate trauma-related issues by conducting their duties under a trauma-informed approach.

House Bill 2575 A establishes a program to provide grants to local agencies for trauma-informed training and to develop model training program that takes into account effects of trauma and to develop best practices for future trainings under the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.