

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1268

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

1 **AMEND** by inserting the following after line 104 and
2 **renumbering subsequent section(s) accordingly:**

3 **SECTION *.** (1) There is created the Mississippi First
4 Responder PTSD and Suicide Prevention Task Force. The purpose of
5 the task force is to unite key stakeholders in order to assess the
6 mental health needs of first responders and develop a strategic
7 plan and proposed legislation. The task force shall review and
8 make recommendations on how to identify PTSD and those
9 contemplating suicide and on methods to prevent suicide for
10 Mississippi's first responders. Additionally, this task force
11 will identify methods to effectively provide treatment for first
12 responders. For the purposes of this section only, the term
13 "first responders" includes law enforcement officers, fire
14 fighters, 911 dispatchers, members of the Mississippi National
15 Guard and emergency medical services.

16 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following
17 twenty-one (21) members:

(a) Three (3) members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee appointed by the chair of the committee;

(b) Three (3) members of the House Public Health and Human Services Committee appointed by the chair of the committee;

(c) One (1) employee of the State Department of Health appointed by the executive director;

(d) One (1) employee of the State Department of Mental Health appointed by the executive director;

(e) One (1) employee of the Mississippi Department of Human Services appointed by the executive director;

(f) The Medical Director and the Director of the Office of Standards and Training of the Department of Public Safety, or their respective designees;

(g) One (1) employee of the Office of the Attorney General appointed by the Attorney General;

(h) Two (2) members, who must be therapists, appointed by the First Responders of Mississippi organization;

(i) One (1) member of the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police appointed by the president;

(j) One (1) member of the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association appointed by the president;

(k) One (1) member of the Mississippi Fire Chiefs Association appointed by the president;

(l) One (1) member of the Professional Firefighters Association of Mississippi appointed by the president;

(m) One (1) member of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Association appointed by the president;

(n) One (1) member of the Mississippi National Guard appointed by the Adjutant General of Mississippi; and

(o) One (1) employee of a member of the Mississippi Ambulance Alliance appointed by the president.

(3) The task force shall perform the following duties:

(a) Assess the needs of first responders by gathering input from first responders about mental health challenges and reviewing existing resources, and identify gaps in mental health support services;

(b) Develop a plan to address identified needs by creating a detailed plan for programs and services that will support first responders' mental health, and identify strategies to make mental health services accessible, affordable and effective;

(c) Foster collaboration among stakeholders by bringing together first responders, mental health professionals and policymakers to identify solutions and propose legislation;

(d) Identify ways to reduce mental health stigma by promoting education and awareness;

64 (e) Ensure oversight and sustainability of programs by
65 establishing a system and recommending an agency or entity to
66 monitor program effectiveness and make needed improvements, and to
67 secure funding and resources in order to ensure programs can
68 continue long-term; and

69 (f) Recommend relevant changes to Mississippi law and
70 other state and local policies which can be implemented by state
71 and local governmental entities.

72 (4) (a) Appointments to the task force must be made within
73 thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act. Within
74 fifteen (15) days thereafter, on a day to be designated jointly by
75 the legislative members of the task force, the task force shall
76 meet and organize by selecting from its membership a chair and
77 vice chair. The vice chair shall serve also as the secretary and
78 is responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A
79 majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum.
80 In the selection of its officers and the adoption of rules,
81 resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the
82 task force is required. Written notice of task force meetings
83 shall be sent electronically to all members at least fifteen (15)
84 days before the date on which a meeting is to be held.

85 (b) The task force shall meet at least once monthly.

86 (c) The task force shall make a final report of its
87 findings and recommendations, including any recommended

88 legislation and any funding needs, to the Legislature before
89 December 1, 2025, at which time the task force will be dissolved.

90 (5) Members of the task force may not receive compensation
91 for their service on the task force.

92 (6) To effectuate the purposes of this act, upon the request
93 of the chair of the task force, a department, division, board,
94 bureau, committee, institution or agency of the state or a
95 political subdivision of the state shall provide the facilities,
96 assistance, information and data needed to enable the task force
97 to carry out its duties.

98 **FURTHER, AMEND the title on line 4 by adding the following**
99 **after the semicolon:**

100 TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI FIRST RESPONDER PTSD AND SUICIDE
101 PREVENTION TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES OF
102 THE TASK FORCE; TO REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON
103 ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE BEFORE
104 DECEMBER 1, 2025;

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Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate