STATE OF NEW YORK

9291

IN ASSEMBLY

February 23, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. BURKE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to law enforcement mental health coordinators

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 214-h to read as follows:

§ 214-h. Mental health coordinators. 1. There is hereby established within the division a mental health coordinator program to provide mental health support and education for law enforcement in New York.

2. Four mental health coordinators shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate. Each shall serve for a term of six years. Mental health coordinators shall receive a salary within amounts appropriated therefor and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

3. (a) Each mental health coordinator shall have a specific region they are responsible for. The four groupings, comprised of individual state troop regions are: (i) A, E and C; (ii) B, D and G; (iii) F, K and L; and (iv) NYC. Troopers should belong to one of the state troop regions they serve as coordinator.

(b) Each mental health coordinator shall:

(i) be an active duty state trooper with an established career in different aspects of law enforcement, including, but not limited to, patrol officer and detective, and have served in both urban and rural settings;

(ii) be a law enforcement professional with a history of developing and disseminating evidence-based training in mental health and resilience; and

(iii) have an established history of working with police administrations and police unions.

4. Mental health coordinators shall:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(a) cooperate with police training academies to introduce police recruits to mental health issues they could face throughout their career in law enforcement;

(b) assist in establishing mental health training for law enforcement, including resilience training, trauma-based training, inter- and intra-departmental training, and training for law enforcement families;

(c) contribute to updating the office of mental health's environmental analysis of mental health and wellness resources for first responders;

(d) cooperate with police agencies to establish peer support programs;

(e) cooperate with private limited liability companies who train in mental health and wellness to ensure that their programs are scientifically sound and factual;

(f) utilize the state university system to establish training and produce research documentation of training effectiveness; and

(g) set standards for continuing education in mental health with an emphasis on meeting the developmental training needs for officers at various stages of their career.

5. Mental health coordinators shall report to the office of mental health on the development and implementation of programs and training for law enforcement officers and shall advise the office of mental health and receive advice from the office of mental health on direction and training needs for law enforcement agencies that vary in size, location, and demographics.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.