

CONSENT CALENDAR

April 26, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on Executive Departments and Administration to which was referred SB 357-FN,

AN ACT relative to mental health training for first responders. Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Stephen Pearson

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Executive Departments and Administration
Bill Number:	SB 357-FN
Title:	relative to mental health training for first responders.
Date:	April 26, 2022
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2022-1625h

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill reestablishes the PTSD Commission for another 2 years. The bill requires that Mental Health Training be included in both the Police and Fire Academy's for new recruits. The bill also requires annual refresher training that will be an on-line only component. The online refresher training is already under development by both Academies. This annual refresher training will not require any existing personnel to travel to their respective Academies.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. Stephen Pearson
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Executive Departments and Administration

SB 357-FN, relative to mental health training for first responders. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

Rep. Stephen Pearson for Executive Departments and Administration. This bill reestablishes the PTSD Commission for another 2 years. The bill requires that Mental Health Training be included in both the Police and Fire Academy's for new recruits. The bill also requires annual refresher training that will be an on-line only component. The online refresher training is already under development by both Academies. This annual refresher training will not require any existing personnel to travel to their respective Academies. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Amendment to SB 357-FN

1 Amend the bill by replacing all after section 1 with the following:

2

3 2 New Section; Mental Health Training for Law Enforcement Officers. Amend RSA 106-L by
4 inserting after section 7 the following new section:

5 106-L:7-a Mental Health Training for Law Enforcement Officers.

6 I. No person shall assume their role as a law enforcement officer or dispatcher unless such
7 person has satisfactorily completed mental health training focusing on post-traumatic stress from a
8 program developed and delivered by the New Hampshire police standards and training council.
9 Subsequent to initial training, all law enforcement officers and dispatchers shall successfully
10 complete annual online training. No current officer shall be required to attend in person training at
11 the academy.

12 II. Mental health training focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder shall be made available
13 annually to any law enforcement officers after their retirement.

14 3 New Section; Mental Health Training for Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services
15 Personnel. Amend RSA 21-P by inserting after section 12-f the following new section:

16 21-P:12-g Mental Health Training for First Responders.

17 I. No person shall assume their role as fire service personnel, fire service dispatcher or
18 emergency medical services personnel unless such person has satisfactorily completed mental
19 health training focusing on post-traumatic stress from a program developed and delivered by the
20 division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services. Subsequent to initial
21 training, all fire service, fire service dispatcher, or emergency medical services personnel shall
22 successfully complete annual online training. No current personnel shall be required to attend in
23 person training at the academy.

24 II. Mental health training focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder shall be made available
25 annually to all fire service or emergency medical services personnel after their retirement.

26 4 New Section; Mental Health Training for Corrections Officers. Amend RSA 21-H by inserting
27 after section 15 the following new section:

28 21-H:16 Mental Health Training for Corrections Officers. No person shall assume their role as a
29 corrections officer unless such person has satisfactorily completed mental health training focusing on
30 post-traumatic stress from a program developed and delivered by the New Hampshire police
31 standards and training council. Subsequent to initial training, all corrections officers shall

Amendment to SB 357-FN

- Page 2 -

1 successfully complete annual online training. No current corrections officer shall be required to
2 attend in person training at the academy.

3 5 Repeal. RSA 281-A:17-e, relative to the commission to study incidence of PTSD in first
4 responders, is repealed.

5 6 Effective Date.

6 I. Section 5 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2023.

7 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 357-FN

BILL TITLE: relative to mental health training for first responders.

DATE: April 25, 2022

LOB ROOM: 302 - 304

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

Moved by Rep. S. Pearson

Seconded by Rep. Goley

AM Vote: 19-0

Amendment # 2022-1625h

Moved by Rep. S. Pearson

Seconded by Rep. Goley

Vote: 19-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Jaci Grote, Acting Clerk



2022 SESSION

Executive Departments and Administration

Bill #: SP 357 Motion: OTPA AM #: 1625 Exec Session Date: 1/25

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
McGuire, Carol M. Chairman	✓		
Rhodes, Jennifer M. Vice Chairman <i>Member</i>	✓		
Sytek, John Clerk <i>Plett</i>	✓		
Pearson, Stephen C.	✓		
Yakubovich, Michael <i>Folsom</i>	✓		
Lekas, Tony	✓		
Alliegro, Mark C.	✓		
Bailey, Glenn	✓		
Lanzara, Tom E.	✓		
Santonastaso, Matthew	✓		
Goley, Jeffrey P.	✓		
Schuett, Dianne E.	✓		
Jeudy, Jean L.	✓		
Schmidt, Peter B.	✓		
Marsh, William M.	✓		
Fellows, Sallie D.	✓		
Fontneau, Timothy J.	✓		
Grote, Jaci L.	✓		
O'Brien, Michael B. <i>Germalo</i>	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	19	0	



2022 SESSION

Executive Departments and Administration

Bill #: SB357 Motion: adopt amendment AM #: 1625 Exec Session Date: 4/25

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
McGuire, Carol M. Chairman	✓		
Rhodes, Jennifer M. Vice Chairman <i>Member</i>	✓		
Sytek, John Clerk <i>Plect</i>	✓		
Pearson, Stephen C.	✓		
Yakubovich, Michael <i>Jolsom</i>	✓		
Lekas, Tony	✓		
Alliegro, Mark C.	✓		
Bailey, Glenn	✓		
Lanzara, Tom E.	✓		
Santonastaso, Matthew	✓		
Goley, Jeffrey P.	✓		
Schuett, Dianne E.	✓		
Jeudy, Jean L.	✓		
Schmidt, Peter B.	✓		
Marsh, William M.	✓		
Fellows, Sallie D.	✓		
Fontneau, Timothy J.	✓		
Grote, Jaci L.	✓		
O'Brien, Michael B. <i>Zornano</i>	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	19	0	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 357-FN

BILL TITLE: relative to mental health training for first responders.

DATE: April 12, 2022

LOB ROOM: 302-304 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:30 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 11:01 a.m.

Committee Members: Reps. McGuire, Rhodes, S. Pearson, Yakubovich, Alliegro, Bailey, Lanzara, Santonastaso, Goley, Schuett, P. Schmidt, Jeudy, Marsh, Grote and O'Brien, Piedmonte

Bill Sponsors:

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Carson

Sen. Watters

Sen. Cavanaugh

Rep. Soucy

Sen. Prentiss

Rep. S. Pearson

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Sen Birdsell – District 19 introduced the bill. Sits on the Commission on PTSD and this bill reconstitutes the commission and includes support for first responders. Training for new employees and annual on line course for current employees. PTSD needs a culture change and this helps police and fire leadership understand this need on these jobs.

Chair McGuire asked about the fiscal note – there is no expected costs since this is taught in academies to new hires and employees include with current on line training. NAMI also providing support.

David Goldstein – NH Assoc of Chiefs of Police also police chief in Franklin. Lives in a world of contingencies with a front row seat to despair – PTSD real in their field of work.

Rep Rhodes asked about bi-annual vs annual on line test – due to high demand with few responders.

Rep McGuire suggested an amendment to clarify the issue regarding the on line course being a mandate – Chief Goldstein prefers a mandate.

Rep Pearson testified that bi-annual is too late since a lot of bad things can occur in two years.

Chair McGuire asked about reconstitution vs extending the commission and this is due to new information of this issue

*Brian Ryll – Pres NFFNH and Captain Portsmouth Fire Department sent in written testimony.

House Remote Testify

Executive Departments and Administration Committee Testify List for Bill SB357 on 2022-04-12

Support: 12 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Birdsell, Senator Regina	Hampstead, NH regina.birdsell@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Senate District 19	Support	No	No	3/30/2022 3:36 PM
Carson, Senator Sharon	SD 14, NH sharon.carson@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	4/4/2022 9:55 AM
Houle, Normand	New Castle, NH nhouleccp@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/9/2022 12:52 PM
Matthews, Marjorie	Hanover, NH marjoriemattthews@me.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/9/2022 12:57 PM
Manseau, Joline	Hollis, NH Joline.manseau@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/9/2022 1:06 PM
Sinclair, Jill	Rochester, NH rsinky@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/9/2022 1:22 PM
Clyde, Terri	Merrimack, NH tlclyde@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/9/2022 2:09 PM
Trudel, Karen	Penacook, NH tktrudel1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/9/2022 3:18 PM
Beaton, Randy	Keene, NH rbeatonrb.rb@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/9/2022 5:26 PM
Lucas, Janet	Campton, NH janluca1953@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/11/2022 7:03 AM
Stevens, Holly	Concord, NH hstevens@naminh.org	A Lobbyist	NAMI New Hampshire	Support	No	No	4/11/2022 1:09 PM
Watters, Senator David	Dover, NH david.watters@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	4/12/2022 8:50 AM

Archived: Thursday, May 19, 2022 9:56:59 AM
From: [Danielle Rioux](#)
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 4:10:33 PM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Cc: [Pamela Laflamme](#)
Subject: City of Berlin - Support for SB438
Importance: Normal

Honorable Chair and Members of the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee:

Please find attached a letter in support of Senate Bill 438 from the City of Berlin.

Regards,

Danielle Rioux

Executive Assistant
City Of Berlin
168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570
603-752-7532

www.berlinnh.gov

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Archived: Thursday, May 19, 2022 9:57:02 AM
From: Michael W Sitar
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 11:15:53 AM
To: ~House Executive Departments and Administration
Subject: SB 357
Importance: Normal

Chair McGuire and Members of the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee:

On behalf of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs (NHAFC), I wanted to convey the Association's support for SB 357 - relative to mental health training for first responders. NHAFC has been an active participant on the Commission to Study the Incidence of PTSD in First Responders. We are pleased the Commission will continue its work, should the bill pass, and that our Association is able to retain its position. This is a timely and important issue. Continuing the work for the Commission will be meaningful as we work to develop solutions to challenges presented by PTSD.

We wanted to raise a minor concern relative to the implementation of Mental Health Training for First Responders in Section 3. For many full-time Departments, the requirements will align with existing training requirements. The online training option will help with implementation. However, smaller Departments that rely on call and volunteer members may have additional challenges. Several Departments in rural areas may not have sufficient connectivity to complete the online offering. Further, some volunteer members may not want to make time to take the training. If they do not complete the training, will they be permitted to respond to future calls? We would not want to lose any volunteers. Ultimately, the training is a good idea and will hopefully benefit first responders. We would recommend as much flexibility to meet the requirement and consideration be given to smaller, rural call/volunteer Departments to comply.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael W. Sitar, Jr., MPA, CFO, EFO
President, New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs
Fire Chief
Tilton-Northfield Fire and EMS
12 Center Street
Tilton, NH 03276
mwsitar@tnfd.org
(603) 286-4781 Office
(978)265-3629 Cell

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

The information contained in this electronic message and any attachment to this message may contain confidential or privileged information and are intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s). Please notify Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS immediately at (603) 286-4781 or reply to info@tnfd.org if you are not the intended recipient and destroy all copies of this electronic message and any attachments.

SB 357-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-3008
08/10

SENATE BILL **357-FN**

AN ACT relative to mental health training for first responders.

SPONSORS: Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Rep. Soucy, Merr. 16; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Rep. S. Pearson, Rock. 6

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill reestablishes the commission to study incidence of post traumatic stress disorder in first responders and ensures that mental health training is available for first responders.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT relative to mental health training for first responders.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Commission to Study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First
2 Responders Reestablished. Amend RSA 281-A by inserting after section 17-d the following new
3 section:

4 281-A:17-e Commission to Study the Incidence of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in First
5 Responders Reestablished.

6 I.(a) There is reestablished the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress
7 disorder in first responders and whether such disorder should be covered under workers'
8 compensation. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

9 (1) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

10 (2) Three members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be from the
11 labor, industrial and rehabilitative services committee, one of whom shall be from the executive
12 departments and administration committee, and one of whom shall be from the state-federal
13 relations and veterans affairs committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

14 (3) The labor commissioner, or designee.

15 (4) The commissioner of safety, or designee.

16 (5) The insurance commissioner, or designee.

17 (6) The commissioner of the department of corrections, or designee.

18 (7) A representative of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, appointed by the
19 association.

20 (8) A representative of the New Hampshire Association of Counties, appointed by
21 the association.

22 (9) A representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness New Hampshire,
23 appointed by the alliance.

24 (10) A fire chief, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs.

25 (11) One member appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police.

26 (12) One member appointed by the New Hampshire Police Association.

27 (13) A representative of the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire, appointed
28 by that organization.

29 (14) A representative of the New Hampshire Association of Emergency Medical
30 Technicians, appointed by the association.

1 (15) A representative of the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange,
2 appointed by that organization.

3 (16) An attorney, appointed by the New Hampshire Association for Justice.

4 (b) Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate
5 when attending to the duties of the commission.

6 II.(a) The commission shall study:

7 (1) Costs associated with training and resources, application of training, and
8 operation of the presumption that post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders is occupationally
9 caused.

10 (2) Whether a first responder's death from suicide is a line of duty death.

11 (3) Life insurance payouts for first responders who die of suicide.

12 (4) Life insurance payouts for retired first responders who die of suicide.

13 (5) Federal line of duty deaths by suicide.

14 (6) Cost and administration of resiliency training.

15 (7) The need for culture change to enable first responders to openly address PTSD
16 issues without impacting their careers.

17 (8) Discuss the intersection of benefits provided by workers' compensation and the
18 New Hampshire retirement system when a first responder retires because of PTSD and whether
19 additional benefits are warranted, including a retirement insurance subsidy.

20 (b) The commission may solicit input from any person or entity the commission deems
21 relevant to its study.

22 III. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members.
23 The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the
24 commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Nine members of the
25 commission shall constitute a quorum.

26 IV. On or before November 1, 2022, the commission shall submit an interim report of its
27 findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the
28 speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state
29 library and shall submit a final report on or before November 1, 2023.

30 2 New Section; Mental Health Training for Law Enforcement Officers. Amend RSA 106-L by
31 inserting after section 7 the following new section:

32 106-L:7-a Mental Health Training for Law Enforcement Officers.

33 I. No person shall assume their role as a law enforcement officer unless such person has
34 satisfactorily completed mental health training focusing on post-traumatic stress from a program
35 developed and delivered by the New Hampshire police standards and training council. Subsequent
36 to initial training, all law enforcement officers shall successfully complete annual online training.

1 II. Mental health training focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder shall be made available
2 annually to any law enforcement officers after their retirement.

3 3 New Section; Mental Health Training for Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services
4 Personnel. Amend RSA 21-P by inserting after section 12-f the following new section:

5 21-P:12-g Mental Health Training for First Responders.

6 I. No person shall assume their role as fire service or emergency medical services personnel
7 such person has satisfactorily completed mental health training focusing on post-traumatic stress
8 from a program developed and delivered by the division of fire standards and training and
9 emergency medical services. Subsequent to initial training, all fire service or emergency medical
10 services personnel shall successfully complete annual online training.

11 II. Mental health training focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder shall be made available
12 annually to all fire service or emergency medical services personnel after their retirement.

13 4 Repeal. RSA 281-A:17-e, relative to the commission to study incidence of PTSD in first
14 responders, is repealed.

15 5 Effective Date.

16 I. Section 4 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2023.

17 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**SB 357-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to mental health training for first responders.

FISCAL IMPACT:

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$20,000 - \$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source:</i>				

COUNTY:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires law enforcement officers and fire service or emergency medical services personnel to complete required mental health training, through programs developed by the Police Standards and Training Council (Police Standards and Training) and the Department of Safety Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services (Fire Standards and Training/EMS), respectively. To develop these programs, one-time costs, assumed in FY 2022, are estimated at \$5,000-\$10,000 for Police Standards and \$15,000 for Fire Standards and Training/EMS.

In addition to the state impact discussed above, this bill may result in increased costs to county and local law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services units for employees to complete the required training.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Police Standards and Training Council, Department of Safety, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association