

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**SB357**

# Bill as Introduced

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

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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.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

SB 357-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

4May2022... 1625h

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

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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.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
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## 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  
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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.

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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.

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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.

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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 or dispatcher unless such  
34 person has satisfactorily completed mental health training focusing on post-traumatic stress from a  
35 program developed and delivered by the New Hampshire police standards and training council.  
36 Subsequent to initial training, all law enforcement officers and dispatchers shall successfully

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

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

5 3 New Section; Mental Health Training for Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services  
6 Personnel. Amend RSA 21-P by inserting after section 12-f the following new section:

7 21-P:12-g Mental Health Training for First Responders.

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

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

17 4 New Section; Mental Health Training for Corrections Officers. Amend RSA 21-H by inserting  
18 after section 15 the following new section:

19 21-H:16 Mental Health Training for Corrections Officers. No person shall assume their role as a  
20 corrections officer unless such person has satisfactorily completed mental health training focusing on  
21 post-traumatic stress from a program developed and delivered by the New Hampshire police  
22 standards and training council. Subsequent to initial training, all corrections officers shall  
23 successfully complete annual online training. No current corrections officer shall be required to  
24 attend in person training at the academy.

25 5 Repeal. RSA 281-A:17-e, relative to the commission to study incidence of PTSD in first  
26 responders, is repealed.

27 6 Effective Date.

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

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

**SB 357-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2022-1625h)

AN ACT relative to mental health training for first responders.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**     State             County             Local             None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
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<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$20,000 - \$25,000	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Standards and Training <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Fire and Emergency Medical Services Fund			

**COUNTY:**

<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

**LOCAL:**

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**METHODOLOGY:**

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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 and Department of Safety

**SB 357-FN FISCAL NOTE  
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**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Police Standards and Training Council and Department of Safety

CHAPTER 331  
SB 357-FN - FINAL VERSION

4May2022... 1625h

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

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ANALYSIS

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CHAPTER 331  
SB 357-FN - FINAL VERSION

4May2022... 1625h

22-3008  
08/10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two*

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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.

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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.



**CHAPTER 331**  
**SB 357-FN - FINAL VERSION**  
**- Page 2 -**

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:

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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.

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17           (8) Discuss the intersection of benefits provided by workers' compensation and the  
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26           IV. On or before November 1, 2022, the commission shall submit an interim report of its  
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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           331:2 New Section; Mental Health Training for Law Enforcement Officers. Amend RSA 106-L  
31 by 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 or dispatcher unless such  
34 person has satisfactorily completed mental health training focusing on post-traumatic stress from a  
35 program developed and delivered by the New Hampshire police standards and training council.  
36 Subsequent to initial training, all law enforcement officers and dispatchers shall successfully

**CHAPTER 331**  
**SB 357-FN - FINAL VERSION**  
**- Page 3 -**

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

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

5 331:3 New Section; Mental Health Training for Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services  
6 Personnel. Amend RSA 21-P by inserting after section 12-f the following new section:

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8 I. No person shall assume their role as fire service personnel, fire service dispatcher or  
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14 person training at the academy.

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

17 331:4 New Section; Mental Health Training for Corrections Officers. Amend RSA 21-H by  
18 inserting after section 15 the following new section:

19 21-H:16 Mental Health Training for Corrections Officers. No person shall assume their role as a  
20 corrections officer unless such person has satisfactorily completed mental health training focusing on  
21 post-traumatic stress from a program developed and delivered by the New Hampshire police  
22 standards and training council. Subsequent to initial training, all corrections officers shall  
23 successfully complete annual online training. No current corrections officer shall be required to  
24 attend in-person training at the academy.

25 331:5 Repeal. RSA 281-A:17-e, relative to the commission to study incidence of PTSD in first  
26 responders, is repealed.

27 331:6 Effective Date.

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

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

Approved: July 08, 2022

Effective Date:

I. Section 5 effective November 1, 2023

II. Remainder effective September 6, 2022

# Committee Minutes

**SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE**  
**Executive Departments and Administration**

Sen Sharon Carson, Chair  
Sen John Reagan, Vice Chair  
Sen Denise Ricciardi, Member  
Sen Kevin Cavanaugh, Member  
Sen Suzanne Prentiss, Member

Date: December 21, 2021

**HEARINGS**

Wednesday	01/19/2022	
(Day)	(Date)	
Executive Departments and Administration	State House 103	9:00 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)
9:00 a.m.	<b>SB 362</b>	relative to training as a certified service plumber.
9:15 a.m.	<b>SB 227-FN</b>	relative to death benefits for first responders who die from suicide.
9:30 a.m.	<b>SB 357-FN</b>	relative to mental health training for first responders.
10:00 a.m.	<b>SB 330-FN</b>	relative to reciprocal licensing requirements for boards, commissions, and councils administered by the office of professional licensure and certification and establishing registration of paid feeding assistant programs.
10:20 a.m.	<b>SB 230-FN</b>	relative to the practice of body art.
10:40 a.m.	<b>SB 361-FN</b>	requiring that bail commissioners be reimbursed for mileage traveled in the performance of their duties.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW**

**Sponsors:**

**SB 362**

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Avard

Rep. Milz

Rep. Potucek

**SB 227-FN**

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Carson

Sen. Cavanaugh

Rep. S. Pearson

**SB 357-FN**

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Carson

Sen. Watters

Sen. Cavanaugh

Rep. Soucy

Sen. Prentiss

Rep. S. Pearson

**SB 330-FN**

Sen. Giuda

Sen. Hennessey

Sen. Watters

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Avard

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Carson

Rep. Lang

Rep. P. Schmidt

Rep. McGuire

**SB 230-FN**

Sen. Cavanaugh

**SB 361-FN**

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Hennessey

Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Watters

Sen. Bradley

Sen. French

Sen. Reagan

Sen. Avard

Sen. Carson

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Cavanaugh

Rep. Piemonte

Rep. Edwards

Rep. Welch

Chantell Wheeler 271-1403

Sharon M Carson  
Chairman

# Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

*Chantell Wheeler 271-1403*

**SB 357-FN**, relative to mental health training for first responders.

**Hearing Date:** January 19, 2022

**Time Opened:** 9:50 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:00 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Carson, Reagan, Ricciardi and Cavanaugh

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Prentiss

**Bill 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.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Carson

Sen. Watters

Sen. Cavanaugh

Rep. Soucy

Sen. Prentiss

Rep. S. Pearson

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**Who supports the bill:** Senators Birdsell, Watters, Cavanaugh and Carson, Russell Conte (Department of Safety), Brian Ryll, (Professional Firefighters of NH), John McAllister (Professional Firefighters of NH), Chief David Goldstein (NH Police Chiefs), Holly Stevens (NAMI-NH), Marc Beaudoin (NH Troopers Association), Natch Greyes (NH Municipal Association), Glenn Brackett, Claudia Istel, Amy Erickson, Linda Burnap, Margaret Keeler, Paula Hurley, Gordon Wilson, Gregory Davis, Wiltrud Mott-Smith, Randy Hayes, Matthew Tarleton, Brian Levesque, Brian Lord, Eric Marquis.

**Who opposes the bill:** None

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

Senator Birdsell:

- This bill reestablishes the commission to study incidence of post traumatic stress disorder in first responders and whether such disorder should be covered under worker's compensation.
- This bill ensures that mental health training is available for first responders.
- It is important that first responders are aware that help is available.

- There is online training available for law enforcement at little or no cost to the municipalities.
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) has offered to assist with training.

**Senator Carson** asks if this bill is similar to a bill that was passed in the Senate last year.

Senator Birdsell confirms that a similar bill passed the Senate and failed in the House as part of an omnibus bill.

**Chief David Goldstein, Franklin PD**

- Supportive of legislation that supports mental health services for law enforcement.
- Supports mandatory mental health training.

**Russell Conte, Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator for NH State Police**

- Supports mental health training and states that there is minimal mental health training offered at the academy.
- There are no negatives in this bill.

**John McCallister, Professional Firefighters of NH**

- Supports the bill and submitted written testimony.
- The Journal of Occupational Health estimates that 20% of fire fighters and paramedics have PTSD.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None

**Neutral Information Presented:** None

cbw

Date Hearing Report completed: January 19, 2022

# Speakers





## Senate Remote Testify

### Executive Departments and Administration Committee Testify List for Bill SB357 on 2022-01-19

Support: 19 Oppose: 0

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Position</b>
Watters, Senator David	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Cavanaugh, Senator Kevin	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Carson, Senator Sharon	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Greyes, Natch	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Municipal Association	Support
Istel, Claudia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Erickson, Amy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Burnap, Linda	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Keeler, Margaret	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Hurley, Paula	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Ryll, Brian	A Lobbyist	Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire	Support
Wilson, Gordon	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Davis, Gregory	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Mott-Smith, Wiltrud	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Hayes, Randy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Tarleton, Matthew	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Levesque, Brian	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Lord, Brian	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Marquis, Eric	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Laurent, Tara	A Member of the Public	NH Assoc of Chiefs of Police & Greenland Police Dept	Support

# Testimony.

# PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

O F N E W H A M P S H I R E

Executive Departments and Administration  
New Hampshire Senate  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Testimony in support of SB 357-FN relative to mental health training for first responders.

Dear Chairwoman Carson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brian Ryll and I serve as the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire and am a Captain for the Portsmouth Fire Department. As the preeminent fire fighter organization in New Hampshire, we advocate for the health and safety of the brave men and women that protect the citizens of this great state. In the fire service, we are routinely called to scenes of catastrophic incidents involving severe injuries, tragic loss of human life and property loss. It is well documented that the cumulative effects of these exposures may result in psychological injuries, or even suicide. It is because of this that I testify before you today in support of SB 357-FN relative to mental health training for first responders.

According to the Journal of Occupational Health, approximately 20 percent of fire fighters and paramedics have PTSD. [1] Furthermore, according to a 2015 Florida State University study, nearly half of the fire fighters surveyed (46.8 percent) have thought about suicide, 19.2 percent had suicide plans and 15.5 percent had made suicide attempts. [2] In fact, those with PTSD are six times more likely to attempt suicide compared to demographically matched controls. Most fire fighters will recall with ease at least three horrific emergency calls or tragic events that replay over and over in their minds. Doctors at the Warriors Research Institute (WRI), a research arm of Baylor, Scott & White Health in Austin, Texas, have identified a clear link between traumatic situations experienced by fire fighters and paramedics and PTSD, similar to the chronic disorder experienced by veterans. [3]

Fire fighters and paramedics may believe that PTSD will go away on its own in time and, therefore, do not need treatment, or that seeking treatment will hurt their reputation or not remain confidential. PTSD can have devastating consequences if untreated or misdiagnosed and is often associated with other mental health disorders, such as depression, substance abuse, family dysfunction, violence and increased risk of suicide. [4] Because of this impact on fire fighters we have worked tremendously hard to provide more support.

In 2015, The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) received funding from the Department of Homeland Security to begin developing a comprehensive, evidence-based peer support program for its members. The program is a two-day interactive course taught by fire service peers and behavioral health clinicians that focuses on active listening skills, suicide awareness and prevention, crisis intervention, referrals to local resources and relationships with local behavioral health providers. With this program delivery alone, the IAFF has trained thousands of its members in the peer support model, and I'm proud to say that many of these members are right here in New Hampshire. Utilizing the model of the IAFF, we have built a successful Peer Support Program that has provided invaluable support for our members battling a variety of behavioral health issues. In addition to the Peer Support Program, the IAFF has established the IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery, a one-of-a-kind addiction treatment facility, specializing in PTSD for fire fighters. While history shows that we have come a long way in reducing the stigma and have made strides in improving our overall behavioral health and wellness, it is clear that there is far more work to be done.

# PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

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## O F N E W H A M P S H I R E

Today, our fire and EMS services are moving past that deeply rooted culture and breaking the stigma so that we can take care of our members, and ensure that they live healthy lives and continue to provide the essential services that our citizens need. PTSD is a serious and chronic condition that can ruin the careers of fire fighters and paramedics, destroy families and jeopardize public and fire fighter safety.

The recruitment and retention of public employees is crucial to long-term stability for the taxpayers. And when we consider the modern day risks our fire fighters face, including cancer exposure, heart and lung disease, a novel coronavirus and PTSD, recruitment and retention becomes increasingly difficult. Additionally, costs associated with the proper screening, training, certification and recertification of dedicated individuals only increase when these employees do not maintain optimum mental health. By reducing turnover and guaranteeing adequate treatment for work-related injuries, the public achieves a greater return on their community investments. The commission to study post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders did amazing work in the last session, however there is far more work to be done to determine how we can combat this occupational illness. As such, The Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire urge the committee's full support of SB 357-FN relative to mental health training for first responders.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Ryll  
President  
Professional Fire Fighters of NH

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[1] Cornell, W., Beaton, R., Murphy, S., (1999). Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, 4, 131-141

[2] Career prevalence and correlates of suicidal thoughts and behaviors among firefighters Joiner TE2, Stanley IH1, Hom MA2, Hagan CR2, J Affect Disord. November 15, 2015

[3] Waco research facility takes aim at PTSD in first responders. September 11 Families Association (www.911families.org) July 29, 2015

[4] United States Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for PTSD. Co-occurring conditions. (www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/co-occurring/index.asp)

## Chantell Wheeler

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**From:** Michael W Sitar <mwsitar@tnfd.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 9:00 AM  
**To:** Sharon Carson; John Reagan; Kevin Cavanaugh; Denise Ricciardi; Suzanne Prentiss; Chantell Wheeler  
**Subject:** SB 357

Senator Carson and Members of the Senate 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.

We wanted to raise a minor concern relative to the implementation of Mental Health Training for First Responders. 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. A number of 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

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## Chantell Wheeler

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**From:** Michael W Sitar <mwsitar@tnfd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 8:20 AM  
**To:** Sharon Carson; John Reagan; Kevin Cavanaugh; Denise Ricciardi; Suzanne Prentiss; Chantell Wheeler  
**Subject:** SB 357

Senator Carson and Members of the Senate 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.

We wanted to raise a minor concern relative to the implementation of Mental Health Training for First Responders. 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  
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Tilton-Northfield Fire and EMS  
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Tilton, NH 03276  
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# Voting Sheets



**Senate Executive Departments and  
Administration Committee  
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD  
2022 Session**

Bill # SB 357 fm

Hearing date: 1/19/2022

Executive Session date: 1/19/2022

Motion of: OTR Vote: 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Carson, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Reagan, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ricciardi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Cavanaugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Prentiss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: Consent Vote: 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Carson, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Reagan, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ricciardi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Cavanaugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Prentiss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Carson, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Reagan, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ricciardi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Cavanaugh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Prentiss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reported out by: Sen Cavanaugh

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Committee Report



## General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

**Docket of SB357**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** relative to mental health training for first responders.*Official Docket of SB357.:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Description</b>
12/17/2021	S	To Be <b>Introduced</b> 01/05/2022 and Referred to Executive Departments and Administration; <b>SJ 1</b>
12/21/2021	S	<b>Hearing:</b> 01/19/2022, Room 103, SH, 09:30 am; <b>SC 50</b>
1/26/2022	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 02/03/2022; Vote 5-0; CC; <b>SC 5</b>
2/3/2022	S	<b>Ought to Pass:</b> MA, VV; OT3rdg; 02/03/2022; <b>SJ 2</b>
3/23/2022	H	Introduced 03/17/2022 and referred to Executive Departments and Administration
3/30/2022	H	Public Hearing: 04/12/2022 10:30 am LOB 302-304
4/26/2022	H	Executive Session: 04/12/2022 10:30 am LOB 302-304
4/26/2022	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment <b>#2022-1625h (Vote 19-0; CC)</b>
5/4/2022	H	Amendment # 1625h: AA VV 05/04/2022 <b>HJ 11</b>
5/4/2022	H	<b>Ought to Pass with Amendment</b> 1625h: MA VV 05/04/2022 <b>HJ 11</b>
5/12/2022	S	Sen. Carson Moved to Concur with the House Amendment, MA, VV; 05/12/2022; <b>SJ 12</b>
6/7/2022	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 05/26/2022 <b>HJ 14</b>
6/6/2022	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 05/26/2022); <b>SJ 13</b>
7/13/2022	S	Signed by the Governor on 07/08/2022; Chapter 0331
7/13/2022	S	I. Section 5 Effective 11/01/2023
7/13/2022	S	II. Remainder Effective 09/06/2022

NH House

NH Senate

# Other Referrals

**Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives**

Bill Number: SB 357fn

Senate Committee: EDA

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Final docket found on Bill Status

**Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}**

Bill version as it came to the committee

All Calendar Notices

Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

Hearing Report

Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

**Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}**

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_

Executive Session Sheet

Committee Report

**Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}**

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_

**Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}**

Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

Governor's Veto Message

**All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}**

\_\_\_ as amended by the senate

as amended by the house

\_\_\_ final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

CBLW  
Committee Aide

2/10/22  
Date

Senate Clerk's Office AK