

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1617

5 By: Representatives Richardson, Slape  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER EMPLOYED  
9 BY A PUBLIC LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO SUBMIT TO  
10 MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNSELING AS A  
11 QUALIFICATION TO SERVE AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER;  
12 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13  
14

## Subtitle

15 TO REQUIRE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
16 EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC LAW ENFORCEMENT  
17 AGENCY TO SUBMIT TO MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL  
18 HEALTH COUNSELING AS A QUALIFICATION TO  
19 SERVE AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.  
20  
21  
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, is amended  
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 12-9-124. Mental and behavioral health counseling.

28 (a) A law enforcement officer employed by a public law enforcement  
29 agency shall submit to mental and behavioral health counseling by a third-  
30 party trained medical professional:

31 (1) Every five (5) years; and

32 (2) After responding to or being involved in the investigation  
33 or prosecution of an offense during which a person was killed or seriously  
34 physically injured or a minor was physically injured.

35 (b) The mental and behavioral health counseling described in this  
36 section is a requirement in order to serve as a law enforcement officer



1 employed by a public law enforcement agency.

2 (c) The public law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement  
3 officer shall provide a third-party trained medical professional to perform  
4 the mental and behavioral health counseling.

5 (d) The results of the mental and behavioral health counseling under  
6 this section shall be given to the law enforcement officer and to his or her  
7 direct supervisor and employer and shall be included in the personnel file of  
8 the law enforcement officer.

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36