

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

As Engrossed: H4/12/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1877

5 By: Representatives Pilkington, Scott, *Richardson*
6 By: Senator J. Dismang
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING FOR
10 FIREFIGHTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 CONCERNING CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEFING
14 FOR FIREFIGHTERS.
15
16

17
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 22, Subchapter 1, is
21 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 20-22-101. Critical incident debriefing – Definition.

23 (a) As used in this section, "critical incident" means an event that
24 has a stressful impact sufficient to overwhelm a person's usually effective
25 coping skills, including an event that falls outside the range of ordinary
26 human experience.

27 (b) A local government that maintains a fire department shall adopt a
28 policy that:

29 (1) Shall make available to a firefighter who has been involved
30 in a critical incident the opportunity to participate in a debriefing by a
31 mental health professional or a certified peer support member as defined
32 under § 16-40-106; and

33 (2) Shall require the fire department to assist a firefighter
34 who has been involved in a critical incident in obtaining additional services
35 that may assist the firefighter in recovering from psychological effects
36 resulting from the critical incident.



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
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

/s/Pilkington

APPROVED: 4/26/21