

House Bill 913

By: Representative Lott of the 122nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions regarding the Department of Public Safety, so as to establish
3 the Law Enforcement Assistance Program within the Department of Public Safety; to provide
4 for definitions; to provide for the purpose of such program; to provide for courses of training;
5 to provide for related matters; to provide for a contingent effective date; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 general provisions regarding the Department of Public Safety, is amended by adding a new
11 Code section to read as follows:

12 "35-2-16.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Critical incident support services' means interventions designed to provide
15 compassionate or coping support in the event of involvement in, being a witness to, or
16 being otherwise affected by a traumatic event, including, but not limited to, any series of
17 events that render a traumatic effect.

18 (2) 'Peer counselor' shall have the same meaning as provided for in Code Section
19 24-5-510.

20 (b) There is established within the department the Law Enforcement Assistance Program.
21 The purpose of such program shall be to respond to and provide peer counselors and
22 critical incident support services to any requesting law enforcement agency in this state
23 which has experienced death or other tragedy involving a law enforcement officer or other
24 employee, to provide critical incident support services to law enforcement officers
25 experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder or other trauma and stress related disorders, and
26 to provide other critical incident support services to any law enforcement agency upon

27 request. The department shall develop a course of training for critical incident stress
28 debriefing and peer support."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 (a) This Act shall become effective only if funds are specifically appropriated for the
31 purposes of this Act in an appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly.

32 (b) If funds are so appropriated, then this Act shall become effective on the later of:

33 (1) The date on which such appropriations Act becomes effective; or

34 (2) The beginning date of the fiscal year for which such appropriations are made.

35 **SECTION 3.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.