

SENATE BILL 454

E4, J1

0lr0519
CF 0lr3325

By: **Senators Pinsky, Augustine, Feldman, Griffith, Guzzone, Kelley, Rosapepe,
and Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Mandatory Mental Health Training – First Responders and Law**
3 **Enforcement Officers**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each first responder and law enforcement officer in the State
5 to complete certain mental health awareness training approved by the Maryland
6 Police Training and Standards Commission; defining a certain term; and generally
7 relating to training for first responders and law enforcement officers.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Public Safety

10 Section 7–404

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Public Safety**

16 **7–404.**

17 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
18 **INDICATED.**

19 **(2) “FIRST RESPONDER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS LICENSED OR**
20 **CERTIFIED UNDER § 13–516 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.**

21 **(3) “LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER” MEANS:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(I) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO, IN AN OFFICIAL**
2 **CAPACITY, IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ARRESTS; OR**

3 **(II) A SHERIFF, DEPUTY SHERIFF, OR ASSISTANT SHERIFF.**

4 **(B) EACH FIRST RESPONDER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN THE**
5 **STATE SHALL COMPLETE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING APPROVED BY**
6 **THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION, INCLUDING**
7 **TRAINING TO:**

8 **(1) COMBAT THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS;**

9 **(2) CONNECT INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS TO MENTAL**
10 **HEALTH SERVICES;**

11 **(3) EMPLOY CRISIS DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES;**

12 **(4) ENABLE EARLY INTERVENTION THROUGH RECOGNITION OF SIGNS**
13 **AND SYMPTOMS OF MENTAL ILLNESS;**

14 **(5) IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS; AND**

15 **(6) PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2020.