

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

Unofficial Copy  
P1

1997 Regular Session  
7r1998

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**By: Senator Dorman**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Among Public Safety and Emergency**  
3 **Services Personnel**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Posttraumatic Stress Disorder  
5 among public safety and emergency services personnel; specifying the composition,  
6 powers, duties, and termination of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to  
7 report its findings and recommendations by a certain date; and generally relating to  
8 the Task Force to Study Posttraumatic Stress Disorder among public safety and  
9 emergency services personnel.

10 WHEREAS, Employment in the field of public safety and emergency services  
11 involves unique levels of stress that often result in the existence of posttraumatic stress  
12 disorder in these occupations; and

13 WHEREAS, Studies have shown the prevalence of posttraumatic stress disorder in  
14 public safety and emergency services workers to be approximately 16.2%, which is  
15 significantly higher than the 1.97% prevalence found in the general population; and

16 WHEREAS, Critical incident stress management approaches, such as pre-incident  
17 stress education programs, on-scene support, peer and significant other support  
18 programs, defusings, debriefings, follow-up services, and referral procedures, have been  
19 demonstrated to be effective components of a systematic and comprehensive approach to  
20 mitigating stress; and

21 WHEREAS, Critical incident stress management and mechanisms to address  
22 posttraumatic stress disorder can mitigate the impact of traumatic stress on the  
23 operations of public safety and emergency services personnel and can be used to screen  
24 for employees who may need additional support; and

25 WHEREAS, Management of stress among public safety and emergency personnel  
26 will benefit all Marylanders who come into contact with these employees; now, therefore,  
27 be it

28 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the  
29 Governor is requested to appoint a Task Force to Study Posttraumatic Stress Disorder  
30 among public safety and emergency services personnel, consisting of the following 13  
31 members:

32 (1) one member of the House of Delegates, recommended by the Speaker of  
33 the House of Delegates;

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1 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, recommended by the President  
2 of the Senate;

3 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or his  
4 designee;

5 (4) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation or his designee;

6 (5) one representative of the Maryland State and D.C. Professional  
7 Firefighters Association;

8 (6) one representative of the Maryland State Firemen's Association;

9 (7) one representative of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical  
10 Services Systems (MIEMSS);

11 (8) two representatives of the Fraternal Order of Police, Maryland State  
12 Lodge;

13 (9) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

14 (10) one representative of the fire service Employee Assistance Programs  
15 appointed by the Metro Chiefs;

16 (11) one member from the Workers' Compensation Commission; and

17 (12) one member from the public; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Governor shall designate the Chairperson of the Task  
19 Force; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That staff support for the Task Force shall be provided by the office  
21 of the Governor; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall:

23 (1) review the current information and studies regarding posttraumatic  
24 stress disorder and public safety and emergency services personnel;

25 (2) assess the negative impact of posttraumatic stress disorder on public  
26 safety and emergency services employees' productivity, depression, or other work-related  
27 manifestation of posttraumatic stress disorder;

28 (3) review the current mechanisms and coverage under applicable Maryland  
29 law for treatment and management of posttraumatic stress disorder; and

30 (4) develop any recommendations that it considers appropriate for changes  
31 in statutes, regulations, programs, and guidelines to address the problem of posttraumatic  
32 stress disorder in public safety and emergency services personnel; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall make a final report to the Governor and,  
34 subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly not later  
35 than January 1, 1998; and be it further

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1           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall terminate on January 1, 1998; and be it  
2 further

3           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
4 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the  
5 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
6 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.