

SS SCS SB 57 -- FUNDING TO DETER CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

This bill establishes the "Critical Incident Stress Management Program" within the Department of Public Safety. The Program provides services for peace officers to assist in coping with stress and potential psychological trauma resulting from a response to a critical incident or emotionally difficult event. A "critical incident" is any event outside the usual realm of human experience that is markedly distressing or evokes reactions of intense fear, helplessness, or horror and involves the perceived threat to a person's physical integrity or the physical integrity of someone else.

The bill provides that all peace officers will be required to meet with a program service provider once every three to five years for a mental health check-in. The program service provider will send a notification to the peace officer's commanding officer that he or she completed such check-in. Any information disclosed by a peace officer is privileged and must not be used as evidence in criminal, administrative, or civil proceedings against the peace officer, except as in certain instances as provided in the bill.

Additionally, the bill creates the "988 Public Safety Fund" within the State Treasury, which shall be used by the Department of Public Safety for the purposes of providing services for peace officers to assist in coping with stress and potential psychological trauma resulting from a response to a critical incident or emotionally difficult event. Such services may include consultation, risk assessment, education, intervention, and other crisis intervention services.

The bill creates the "Economic Distress Zone Fund", which will be a fund used solely by the Department of Public Safety to provide funding to organizations registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) corporation that provide services to residents of the state in areas of high incidents of crime and deteriorating infrastructure, as defined in the bill, for the purpose of deterring criminal behavior in such areas. If money appropriated to the Fund exceeds \$3 million, excluding any money made available by gift or otherwise, such money will revert to general revenue.

This provision shall sunset on August 28, 2024.