

HB 3131 -- LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO A MENTAL-HEALTH EMERGENCY

SPONSOR: Smith (68)

Currently, the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission is required to set a minimum number of hours of basic training with certain exceptions. This bill adds to those exceptions by requiring that the basic training of every peace officer who is first licensed on or after August 28, 2028, include at least six hours of training concerning behavior-health crisis response.

Additionally, peace officers who provide emergency response are required to receive three hours of training within the law enforcement continuing education three-year reporting period concerning behavior-health crisis response.

This bill requires a "co-response team", consisting of a behavioral health professional and a peace officer, to respond to all emergency response calls that are classified by emergency dispatch as "mental-health related". If emergency dispatch intelligence or on-scene assessment indicates that there is an immediate, significant risk of violence, law enforcement is permitted to initially stage and secure the scene without a behavioral health professional. Once the scene is secure, the co-response team will be re-dispatched if the incident remains mental-health related.

The bill requires the Missouri 911 Service Board, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and local public dispatcher agencies, to develop uniform dispatch triage protocols to identify mental-health related calls and allocate co-responder, mobile crisis, or peace-officer-only response. All dispatchers will receive at least eight hours of training in crisis identification and safe triage.

Peace officers providing emergency response must complete at least 40 hours of standardized behavioral-health crisis training within 12 months of assignment to patrol or emergency response duties and annual refresher training. The bill specifies what must be included in the training curriculum.

The bill creates the "Behavioral Health Co-Responder Grant Fund", the moneys of which are to be used to hire and certify behavioral health professionals for co-response; for training and joint simulation costs; for data collection; for startup stipends and grants; and for the development of regional co-response hubs.

The bill requires law enforcement agencies to collect standardized data for all mental-health-related dispatches. The bill specifies what data shall be collected.

The bill also requires the Department of Public Safety to make a statewide report to the General Assembly summarizing key indicators, outcomes, costs, and recommendations, no later than January 1, 2028. Additionally, no later than January 1, 2030, the General Assembly must contract an independent evaluator to assess outcomes including, but not limited to, detentions, use of force, costs, and linkage to services.