

**Hall of the House of Representatives**  
95th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2025  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of House Bill 1505**

TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC EMPLOYER TO OFFER AND PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR  
LICENSED COUNSELING FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE WHO HAS  
EXPERIENCED A TRAUMATIC EVENT.

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**Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 1505**

Amend House Bill 1505 as originally introduced:

Add Representatives Barker, Furman, L. Johnson, McAlindon, Rye as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Add Senators C. Tucker, J. Scott as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Page 1, line 15, delete "EVENT;" and substitute "EVENT; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;"

AND

Delete the subtitle in its entirety, and substitute the following:

"TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC EMPLOYER TO OFFER  
AND PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR LICENSED  
COUNSELING FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE  
WHO HAS EXPERIENCED A TRAUMATIC EVENT;  
AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY."

AND

Immediately following SECTION 1 of the bill, add an additional section to read as follows:

"SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that Acts 2023, No. 537, required public employers to provide coverage for licensed counseling for public safety employees who experience a traumatic event in the course of their



duties; that Acts 2023, No. 537, expired on January 1, 2025, leaving no requirement in place for public employers to provide coverage for licensed counseling for public safety employees who experience a traumatic event in the course of their duties; that it is in the best interest of the state to provide mental health support for public safety employees who experience traumatic events in the course of their duties; that mental health services for public safety employees is important to the public peace, health, and safety as the state relies on these employees to respond appropriately in an emergency; and that this act is immediately necessary because coverage for licensed counseling for public safety employees who experience a traumatic event in the course of their duties is essential to the continued service of these public safety employees to ensure the public peace, health, and safety. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."

The Amendment was read \_\_\_\_\_  
By: Representative Wing  
JLL/JLL - 03-10-2025 02:22:21  
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Chief Clerk