

SENATE No. 1570

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan L. Moran

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the well-being of law enforcement officers after involvement in a critical incident.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/10/2023</i>

SENATE No. 1570

By Ms. Moran, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1570) of Susan L. Moran for legislation relative to the well-being of law enforcement officers after involvement in a critical incident. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to the well-being of law enforcement officers after involvement in a critical incident.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 118 the
2 following section:-

3 Section 119. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
4 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

5 “Critical incident”, a traumatic event that may cause powerful emotional reactions in
6 people involved or exposed to the event, including: (i) line of duty death or life-threatening
7 injury of an officer; (ii) suicide of an officer; (iii) multiple casualty incidents or disasters; (iv)
8 significant stressful incidents involving children; (v) incidents involving life-threatening injuries
9 or death of a family member or significant other of an officer; (vi) an officer-involved injury or
10 death, as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E; and (vii) any other significant incident that elicits a

11 strong emotional response by the involved officers, at the discretion of the head of the law
12 enforcement agency.

13 “Law enforcement agency” or “agency”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E.

14 “Law enforcement officer” or “officer”, as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E.

15 “Telehealth”, as defined in section 30 of chapter 32A.

16 (b) Each law enforcement agency shall, in collaboration with the municipal police
17 training committee established pursuant to section 116, develop and maintain a policy or
18 program for supporting law enforcement officers who have been involved in a critical incident.
19 The policy or program may include a peripheral law enforcement officer present at the scene of
20 reports an impact or request supportive services.

21 (c) The policy or program shall include:

22 (1) Pre-incident preparation, including training and education about both normal and
23 problematic post-traumatic reactions commonly associated with critical incidents;

24 (2) Protocols to ensure an involved officer’s physical and psychological safety at the
25 scene and following the critical incident;

26 (3) The provision of post-critical incident services to an involved officer, and the ability
27 to extend the post-critical incident services to an officer’s family and significant others when
28 warranted;

29 (4) Guidelines for temporary leave or appropriate duty reassignment as agreed upon by
30 an involved officer and the agency to allow an involved officer to receive services and manage

31 the impact of the incident on an involved officer and an involved officer's family and significant
32 others; and

33 (5) Guidelines and procedures for an officer's return to duty, including ongoing support
34 and services available to an involved officer. The guidelines and procedures may include, to the
35 extent possible given the law enforcement agency's size and resources:

36 (i) A reintegration plan that considers having an officer return to the scene of the critical
37 incident if necessary, participation in additional firearm training and participation in a graduated
38 re-entry with a partner; and

39 (ii) Ongoing supportive mental health services, including confidential follow-up by a
40 qualified mental health professional, either in person or through telehealth services.

41 (d) The policy or program may include, to the extent possible given the law enforcement
42 agency's size and resources:

43 (1) At least 1 confidential post-critical incident intervention with a qualified mental
44 health professional in a timely manner following the incident, including through telehealth
45 services;

46 (2) Ongoing confidential mental health services from a qualified mental health
47 professional as needed, including through telehealth services; and

48 (3) Some form of peer support, including agency peer support or online or telehealth peer
49 support.

50 (e) Not less than biennially, each law enforcement agency shall complete a review of the
51 policy or program required pursuant to this section and revise the policy or program, as
52 necessary.