

HOUSE BILL NO. 696

INTRODUCED BY B. USHER, K. KELKER, A. REGIER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS; REVISING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM; REQUIRING REPORTING TO THE LEGISLATURE; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 44-7-110, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 44-7-110, MCA, is amended to read:

"44-7-110. Crisis intervention team training program -- rulemaking. (1) Within the limits of available funds, the board of crime control shall ~~develop and~~ administer and support a crisis intervention team training program to increase the number of law enforcement officers, behavioral health providers, and community stakeholders who are trained to respond safely and effectively to incidents that involve an individual who is experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

(2) ~~Local law enforcement agencies governments, including tribal law enforcement agencies governments, and nonprofit law enforcement organizations~~ are eligible to receive grant funding. Grant funds must be used to provide specialized training to help officers help law enforcement, advocacy, mental health, and community providers to:

(a) provide specialized training to law enforcement officers to help officers recognize and properly respond to individuals with a mental illness or behavioral health problem, including strategies for verbal de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques; and

(b) best utilize or establish collaborative programs that enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to coordinate with community-based service providers to address the behavioral health problems of individuals typically encountered by law enforcement officers in the line of duty.

(3) The board may also contract directly with a nonprofit organization to provide or coordinate community-based training programs ~~or~~ to develop best practices and standards.

1 (4) In administering the crisis intervention team training program, the board shall:

2 (a) identify and disseminate data and technical assistance to local law enforcement and to community
3 stakeholders on established national and international best practices or develop statewide best practices for
4 community-based law enforcement responses to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis;

5 (b) identify priorities for funding services, activities, and criteria for the receipt of program funds,
6 including that the training offered should incorporate the best practices identified or developed by the board in
7 conjunction with stakeholders;

8 (c) monitor the expenditure of funds by organizations receiving funds under this section;

9 (d) evaluate the effectiveness of services and activities under this section;

10 (e) adopt rules as needed to implement this section; and

11 (f) to the extent practicable, coordinate with existing statewide organizations that identify best
12 practices, develop training models, and collect data to avoid duplication of efforts.

13 (5) The board shall report, in accordance with 5-11-210, on the status of the program to the law and
14 justice interim committee by September 15 of each even-numbered year.

15 ~~(5)(6)~~ (a) Funds available under subsection (1) consist of state appropriations and federal funds
16 received by the board for the purposes of administering and supporting the crisis intervention team training
17 program or any funds received pursuant to subsection ~~(5)(b)~~ (6)(b). The board shall actively seek federal grant
18 money that may be used for the purposes of this section.

19 (b) The board may accept gifts, grants, and donations from other public or private sources, which
20 must be used within the scope of this section.

21 (c) The board may utilize up to 10% of funds appropriated for costs incurred to administer the
22 program."
23

24 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$75,000 from the general fund to
25 the board of crime control for each year of the biennium beginning July 1, 2021. The appropriation must be
26 used for the purposes of providing crisis intervention team training as provided in 44-7-110.

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28 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2021.

