

**Subject** Grant program; mental health issues experienced by firefighters

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**Date** March 18, 2019

## Overview

This bill establishes a targeted grant program to address mental health issues, especially post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), experienced by firefighters and their families, and appropriates money for this program. The American Psychiatric Association describes PTSD as a psychiatric disorder that may occur in people who witness a traumatic event like a natural disaster, serious accident, terrorist attack, combat, war, or personal violence. It may be caused by onetime or repeated exposure to such an event.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Targeted grant program to address post-traumatic stress disorder in firefighters.</b></p> <p>Establishes the grant program, details how appropriations to the program must be spent, establishes application requirements, and requires a report.</p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Grant program established.</b> Directs the commissioner of health to establish and administer a grant program to address mental health issues, especially PTSD, experienced by firefighters and their families. Lists allowable uses of grant funds, and requires priority in awarding grants to be given to community-based or nonprofit organizations with experience in treating PTSD and in providing services in a particular area. Specifies how much of the appropriation must be used for each activity.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Application.</b> Requires an entity seeking a grant to apply to the commissioner, and lists what the grant application must include.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Report.</b> Requires grant recipients to report to the commissioner regarding activities funded under the grant program.</p>
2	<p><b>Appropriation.</b></p> <p>Appropriates \$400,000 in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for grants to address mental health issues experienced by firefighters. Makes this a onetime appropriation.</p>



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