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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 527

01/18/2023 Authored by Clardy, Huot, Vang, Reyer, Tabke and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; expanding the fourth-degree assault crime related to health
1.3 care professionals; requiring the commissioner of health to develop education and
1.4 awareness initiatives addressing health care professional burnout and mental health
1.5 issues; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.2231,
1.6 subdivision 2.

1.7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.2231, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.9 Subd. 2. **Firefighters and, emergency medical personnel, and other health care**
1.10 **professionals.** Whoever assaults ~~any of the following persons~~ and inflicts demonstrable
1.11 bodily harm on or intentionally throws or otherwise transfers bodily fluids or feces at or
1.12 onto any of the following persons is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment
1.13 for not more than two years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$4,000, or both:

1.14 (1) a member of a municipal or volunteer fire department or emergency medical services
1.15 personnel unit in the performance of the member's duties; or

1.16 (2) a physician, nurse, or other person providing health care services ~~in a hospital~~
1.17 ~~emergency department.~~

1.18 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2023, and applies to crimes
1.19 committed on or after that date.

2.1 Sec. 2. **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL WELL-BEING EDUCATION AND**
2.2 **OUTREACH INITIATIVE.**

2.3 The commissioner of health, in coordination with a work group comprised of health
2.4 care professionals, health care systems, health plan organizations, health professional
2.5 associations, and mental health experts who focus on provider burnout, shall:

2.6 (1) develop and implement an education and awareness initiative that:

2.7 (i) describes the symptoms and risk factors for professional burnout and moral injury;

2.8 (ii) addresses the stigma among health care professionals associated with seeking
2.9 self-care, including mental health and substance use disorder services;

2.10 (iii) encourages health care professionals to seek support and care for their mental health
2.11 and substance use disorder concerns; and

2.12 (iv) helps health care professionals identify risk factors associated with suicide and other
2.13 mental health conditions;

2.14 (2) develop and make available educational resources to support health care professionals
2.15 with self-care and resiliency;

2.16 (3) establish priorities for health care organizations to take to prevent and reduce health
2.17 care professional burnout and moral injury; and

2.18 (4) develop evidence-based measurable outcomes to determine the effectiveness of
2.19 strategies taken by health care organizations to prevent and reduce health care professional
2.20 burnout and moral injury.

2.21 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.22 \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
2.23 of health for the health care professional well-being education and outreach initiative.