

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 2992, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 2992

To direct the Attorney General to develop crisis intervention training tools for use by first responders related to interacting with persons who have a traumatic brain injury, another form of acquired brain injury, or post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2021

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. RUTHERFORD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to develop crisis intervention training tools for use by first responders related to interacting with persons who have a traumatic brain injury, another form of acquired brain injury, or post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Traumatic Brain In-
3 jury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Law Enforce-
4 ment Training Act” or the “TBI and PTSD Law Enforce-
5 ment Training Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) According to the Centers for Disease Con-
9 trol and Prevention, there were approximately 2.9
10 million traumatic brain injury-related emergency de-
11 partment visits, hospitalizations, and deaths in the
12 United States in 2014.

13 (2) Effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) can
14 be short-term or long-term, and include impaired
15 thinking or memory, movement, vision or hearing, or
16 emotional functioning, such as personality changes
17 or depression.

18 (3) Currently, between 3.2 million and 5.3 mil-
19 lion persons are living with a TBI-related disability
20 in the United States.

21 (4) About 7 or 8 percent of Americans will ex-
22 perience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at
23 some point in their lives, and about 8 million adults
24 have PTSD during the course of a given year.

1 (5) TBI and PTSD have been recognized as the
2 signature injuries of the Wars in Iraq and Afghani-
3 stan.

4 (6) According to the Department of Defense,
5 383,000 men and women deployed to Iraq and Af-
6 ghanistan sustained a brain injury while in the line
7 of duty between 2000 and 2018.

8 (7) Approximately 13.5 percent of Operations
9 Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans
10 screen positive for PTSD, according to the Depart-
11 ment of Veteran Affairs.

12 (8) About 12 percent of Gulf War Veterans
13 have PTSD in a given year while about 30 percent
14 of Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD in their life-
15 time.

16 (9) Physical signs of TBI can include motor im-
17 pairment, dizziness or poor balance, slurred speech,
18 impaired depth perception, or impaired verbal mem-
19 ory, while physical signs of PTSD can include agita-
20 tion, irritability, hostility, hypervigilance, self-de-
21 structive behavior, fear, severe anxiety, or mistrust.

22 (10) Physical signs of TBI and PTSD often
23 overlap with physical signs of alcohol or drug im-
24 pairment, which complicate a first responder's abil-

1 ity to quickly and effectively identify an individual’s
2 condition.

3 **SEC. 3. CREATION OF A TBI AND PTSD TRAINING FOR**
4 **FIRST RESPONDERS.**

5 Part III of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and
6 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651 et seq.) is
7 amended—

8 (1) in section 2991—

9 (A) in subsection (h)(1)(A), by inserting
10 before the period at the end the following: “, in-
11 cluding the training developed under section
12 2993”; and

13 (B) in subsection (o), by amending para-
14 graph (1) to read as follows:

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
16 appropriated to the Department of Justice to carry
17 out this section \$54,000,000 for each of fiscal years
18 2023 through 2027.”; and

19 (2) by inserting after section 2992 the following
20 new section:

21 **“SEC. 2993. CREATION OF A TBI AND PTSD TRAINING FOR**
22 **FIRST RESPONDERS.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
24 date of the enactment of this section, the Attorney Gen-
25 eral, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Justice

1 Assistance, in consultation with the Director of the Cen-
2 ters for Disease Control and Prevention and the Assistant
3 Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, shall so-
4 licit best practices regarding techniques to interact with
5 persons who have a traumatic brain injury, an acquired
6 brain injury, or post-traumatic stress disorder from first
7 responder, brain injury, veteran, and mental health orga-
8 nizations, health care and mental health providers, hos-
9 pital emergency departments, and other relevant stake-
10 holders, and shall develop crisis intervention training tools
11 for use by first responders (as such term is defined in sec-
12 tion 3025) that provide—

13 “(1) information on the conditions and symp-
14 toms of a traumatic brain injury, an acquired brain
15 injury, and post-traumatic stress disorder;

16 “(2) techniques to interact with persons who
17 have a traumatic brain injury, an acquired brain in-
18 jury, or post-traumatic stress disorder; and

19 “(3) information on how to recognize persons
20 who have a traumatic brain injury, an acquired
21 brain injury, or post-traumatic stress disorder.

22 “(b) USE OF TRAINING TOOLS AT LAW ENFORCE-
23 MENT MENTAL HEALTH LEARNING SITES.—The Attor-
24 ney General shall ensure that not less than one Law En-
25 forcement Mental Health Learning Site designated by the

1 Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance uses the
2 training tools developed under subsection (a).

3 “(c) POLICE MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION
4 TOOLKIT.—The Attorney General shall make the training
5 tools developed under subsection (a) available as part of
6 the Police-Mental Health Collaboration Toolkit provided
7 by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.”.

8 **SEC. 4. STUDY ON FIRST RESPONDERS WITH TBI.**

9 Not later than 24 months after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
11 Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for
12 Disease Control and Prevention and the Director of the
13 National Institutes of Health and in consultation with the
14 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
15 fairs, shall conduct a study and submit to the Committee
16 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
17 and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pen-
18 sions of the Senate a report on the prevalence and inci-
19 dence of concussion among first responders (as such term
20 is defined in section 3025 of the Omnibus Crime Control
21 and Safe Street Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10705)). The re-
22 port shall include data on the incidence of concussion
23 among first responders and recommendations for re-
24 sources for first responders who have experienced trau-
25 matic brain injury.