

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 9.1-203.1 and 32.1-111.5:1, relating
3 to mental health awareness training; firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.

4 [S 670]
5 Approved

6 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:
7 1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 9.1-203.1 and 32.1-111.5:1
8 as follows:

9 § 9.1-203.1. Firefighter mental health awareness training.
10 A. Each fire department as defined in § 27-6.01 shall develop curricula for mental health awareness
11 training for its personnel, which shall include training regarding the following:

- 12 1. Understanding signs and symptoms of cumulative stress, depression, anxiety, exposure to acute
13 and chronic trauma, compulsive behaviors, and addiction;
- 14 2. Combating and overcoming stigmas;
- 15 3. Responding appropriately to aggressive behaviors such as domestic violence and harassment; and
- 16 4. Accessing available mental health treatment and resources.

17 B. Any fire department may develop the mental health awareness training curricula in conjunction
18 with other fire departments or firefighter stakeholder groups or may use any training program,
19 developed by any entity, that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection A.

20 C. Firefighters who receive mental health awareness training in accordance with this section shall
21 receive appropriate continuing education credits from the Department of Fire Programs and the
22 Virginia Fire Services Board.

23 § 32.1-111.5:1. Emergency medical services personnel mental health awareness training.

24 A. Each emergency medical services agency shall develop curricula for mental health awareness
25 training for its personnel, which shall include training regarding the following:

- 26 1. Understanding signs and symptoms of cumulative stress, depression, anxiety, exposure to acute
27 and chronic trauma, compulsive behaviors, and addiction;
- 28 2. Combating and overcoming stigmas;
- 29 3. Responding appropriately to aggressive behaviors such as domestic violence and harassment; and
- 30 4. Accessing available mental health treatment and resources.

31 B. Any emergency medical services agency may develop the mental health awareness training
32 curricula in conjunction with other emergency medical services agencies or emergency medical services
33 personnel stakeholder groups or may use any training program, developed by any entity, that satisfies
34 the criteria set forth in subsection A.

35 C. Emergency medical services personnel who receive mental health awareness training in
36 accordance with this section shall receive appropriate continuing education credits from the Office of
37 Emergency Medical Services.