

Under the bill, "critical incident stress" would mean stress or trauma that an emergency service provider may experience in providing an emergency service in response to a critical incident *or a series of critical incidents*. The bill would delete the language pertaining to stress or trauma in this definition and would create a new definition for "stress or trauma".

"Stress or trauma" would mean an emotional, cognitive, behavioral, or physical reaction that may interfere with normal functioning, including one or more of the following:

- Physical and emotional illness.
- Failure of usual coping mechanisms.
- Loss of interest in the job or normal life activities.
- Personality changes.
- Loss of ability to function.
- Psychological disruption of personal life, including a relationship with a spouse, child, or friend.

Part 209A defines "emergency service provider" as an individual who provides emergency response services, including a law enforcement officer, corrections officer, firefighter, emergency medical services provider, dispatcher, emergency response communication employee, or rescue services provider. The bill would include within the definition an individual who is employed by or under contract with a health facility or agency, or a health professional licensed under Article 15 (Occupations).

The bill also specifies that Article 1 (Preliminary Provisions) contains general definitions and principles of construction applicable to all articles in the Code, and Part 201 (General Provisions) contains definitions applicable to Part 209A.

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FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

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