

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 492
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H492-PCS30394-BE-22

Short Title: WC/Psych. Trauma-Related Injuries.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 8, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PROVIDING THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, 911
3 DISPATCHERS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES PERSONNEL ARE
4 ENTITLED TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL
5 TRAUMA UNDER SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 SECTION 1. G.S. 97-53 reads as rewritten:

8 "§ 97-53. Occupational diseases enumerated; when due to exposure to chemicals.

9 The following diseases and conditions only shall be deemed to be occupational diseases
10 within the meaning of this Article:

11 ...

12 (30) Special provisions for employment-related occupational diseases of first
13 responders. – The following provisions apply in determining eligibility of a
14 first responder for compensation benefits under this Article:

15 a. The term "first responder," as used in this section, means a law
16 enforcement officer, a firefighter, a 911 dispatcher, or an emergency
17 medical technician or paramedic employed by State or local
18 government. The term also includes a volunteer firefighter meeting the
19 requirements of G.S. 58-84-5(3a).

20 b. For the purposes of this section, posttraumatic stress disorder, as
21 described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental
22 Disorders, Current Edition, published by the American Psychiatric
23 Association, suffered by a first responder is a compensable
24 occupational disease if the first responder is examined and
25 subsequently diagnosed with such disorder by a health care provider
26 who establishes within a reasonable degree of medical certainty that
27 the posttraumatic stress disorder is caused by activities of employment
28 as a first responder.

29 c. An employing agency of a first responder, including volunteer first
30 responders, shall provide educational training related to mental health
31 awareness, prevention, mitigation, and treatment."

32 SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.



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