

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to first-responder services; creating ss.
 3 125.01045 and 166.0446, F.S.; prohibiting counties and
 4 municipalities from imposing taxes, charging fees, or
 5 seeking reimbursement for costs relating to certain first-
 6 responder services; providing an exception; defining the
 7 term "first responder"; providing an effective date.

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 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11 Section 1. Section 125.01045, Florida Statutes, is created
 12 to read:

13 125.01045 Prohibition of fees for first-responder
 14 services.--

15 (1) A county may not impose a tax, charge a fee, or seek
 16 reimbursement for any costs or expenses that may be incurred for
 17 services provided by a first responder, including costs or
 18 expenses related to personnel, supplies, motor vehicles, or
 19 equipment in response to a motor vehicle accident, fire, or
 20 other emergency, except when services provided to an insured are
 21 expressly covered by an insurance company and:

22 (a) The insured is lawfully billed for the services or
 23 assigns the right to collect to the service provider; or

24 (b) Services provided to the insured are expressly
 25 authorized by state or federal law to be billed directly to an
 26 insurance company.

27 (2) As used in this section, the term "first responder"
 28 means a law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10, a

29 firefighter as defined in s. 633.30, or an emergency medical
 30 technician or paramedic as defined in s. 401.23 who is employed
 31 by state or local government. A volunteer law enforcement
 32 officer, firefighter, or emergency medical technician or
 33 paramedic engaged by the state or a local government is also
 34 considered a first responder of the state or local government
 35 for purposes of this section.

36 Section 2. Section 166.0446, Florida Statutes, is created
 37 to read:

38 166.0446 Prohibition of fees for first-responder
 39 services.--

40 (1) A municipality may not impose a tax, charge a fee, or
 41 seek reimbursement for any costs or expenses that may be
 42 incurred for services provided by a first responder, including
 43 costs or expenses related to personnel, supplies, motor
 44 vehicles, or equipment in response to a motor vehicle accident,
 45 fire, or other emergency, except when services provided to an
 46 insured are expressly covered by an insurance company and:

47 (a) The insured is lawfully billed for the services or
 48 assigns the right to collect to the service provider; or

49 (b) The services provided to the insured are expressly
 50 authorized by state or federal law to be billed directly to an
 51 insurance company.

52 (2) As used in this section, the term "first responder"
 53 means a law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10, a
 54 firefighter as defined in s. 633.30, or an emergency medical
 55 technician or paramedic as defined in s. 401.23 who is employed
 56 by state or local government. A volunteer law enforcement

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57 officer, firefighter, or emergency medical technician or
58 paramedic engaged by the state or a local government is also
59 considered a first responder of the state or local government
60 for purposes of this section.

61 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.