

By Senator Rodriguez

39-00403-22

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to first responder employment-related  
3       accidents and injuries; amending s. 112.1815, F.S.;  
4       revising the definition of the term "first responder"  
5       to include certain correctional officers and 911  
6       public safety telecommunicators; expanding eligibility  
7       for certain workers' compensation benefits for first  
8       responders to include certain correctional officers  
9       and 911 public safety telecommunicators; requiring an  
10      employing agency to annually provide specified  
11      educational training; providing requirements for such  
12      training; providing an effective date.

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

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16       Section 1. Subsections (1) and (6) of section 112.1815,  
17 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

18       112.1815 First responders ~~Firefighters, paramedics,~~  
19 ~~emergency medical technicians, and law enforcement officers;~~  
20 special provisions for employment-related accidents and  
21 injuries.-

22       (1) For purposes of this section only, the term "first  
23 responder" ~~as used in this section~~ means a law enforcement  
24 officer as defined in s. 943.10(1) ~~s. 943.10~~, a firefighter as  
25 defined in s. 633.102(9) ~~s. 633.102~~, ~~or~~ an emergency medical  
26 technician or paramedic as defined in s. 401.23, a correctional  
27 officer as defined in s. 943.10(2), a correctional probation  
28 officer as defined in s. 943.10(3), or a 911 public safety  
29 telecommunicator as defined in s. 401.465(1) employed by state

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30 or local government. The term includes first responders serving  
31 in a volunteer capacity who are ~~law enforcement officer,~~  
32 ~~firefighter, or emergency medical technician or paramedic~~  
33 engaged by the state or a local government ~~is also considered a~~  
34 ~~first responder of the state or local government for purposes of~~  
35 ~~this section.~~

36 (6) An employing agency of a first responder, ~~including~~  
37 ~~volunteer first responders,~~ must provide at least 1 hour of  
38 educational training related to mental health awareness,  
39 prevention, mitigation, and treatment annually. Such training  
40 may be provided in person, in video format, or through other  
41 electronic means. The required educational training must include  
42 specific training on evidence-based coping strategies to  
43 mitigate traumatic stress in first responders, as well as  
44 information on suicide prevention and peer support for first  
45 responders under s. 111.09. Additional training may include, but  
46 is not limited to, information relating to emotional support  
47 animals as defined in s. 760.27(1). The training required under  
48 this subsection must be provided by a mental health practitioner  
49 licensed under chapter 490 or chapter 491 who specializes in  
50 posttraumatic stress disorder.

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.