

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to first responder's employment-  
 3           related accidents and injuries; amending s. 112.1815,  
 4           F.S.; revising the definition of "first responder" to  
 5           include certain correctional officers and 911 public  
 6           safety telecommunicators; expanding eligibility for  
 7           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 provide certain educational  
 11          training annually; requiring such training be provided  
 12          by certain mental health practitioners; providing an  
 13          effective date.

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

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

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

23           (1) For purposes of this section only, the term "first  
 24   responder" ~~as used in this section~~ means a law enforcement  
 25   officer as defined in s. 943.10(1) ~~s. 943.10~~, a firefighter as

26 defined in s. 633.102(9) ~~s. 633.102~~, ~~or~~ an emergency medical  
27 technician or paramedic as defined in s. 401.23, a correctional  
28 officer as defined in s. 943.10(2), a correctional probation  
29 officer as defined in s. 943.10(3), or a 911 public safety  
30 telecommunicator as defined in s. 401.465(1) employed by state  
31 or local government. The term includes first responders serving  
32 in a volunteer capacity who are law enforcement officer,  
33 firefighter, or emergency medical technician or paramedic  
34 engaged by the state or a local government is also considered a  
35 first responder of the state or local government for purposes of  
36 this section.

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

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51 | posttraumatic stress disorder.

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