

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to treatment by a medical specialist;
 3 amending s. 112.18, F.S.; authorizing a firefighter,
 4 law enforcement officer, correctional officer, and
 5 correctional probation officer to receive medical
 6 treatment by a medical specialist for certain
 7 conditions under certain circumstances; requiring such
 8 treatment to be reasonable, necessary, and related to
 9 the firefighter's or officer's condition; specifying a
 10 reimbursement percentage for such treatment; defining
 11 the term "medical specialist"; providing an effective
 12 date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 112.18,
 17 Florida Statutes, to read:

18 112.18 Firefighters and law enforcement or correctional
 19 officers; special provisions relative to disability.—

20 (3)(a) A firefighter, law enforcement officer,
 21 correctional officer, or correctional probation officer
 22 requiring medical treatment for a compensable presumptive
 23 condition listed in subsection (1) may be treated by a medical
 24 specialist. Except in emergency situations, a firefighter, law
 25 enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional

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26 probation officer entitled to receive treatment by a medical
27 specialist under this subsection must provide notice of his or
28 her selection of a medical specialist to the firefighter's or
29 officer's workers compensation carrier, self-insured employer,
30 or third-party administrator before he or she begins treatment,
31 and the carrier, self-insured employer, or third-party
32 administrator must authorize and schedule the appointment and
33 treatment with the medical specialist. The treatment by a
34 medical specialist must be reasonable, necessary, and related to
35 tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension and reimbursed at
36 no more than 200 percent of the Medicare rate.

37 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the term "medical
38 specialist" means a physician licensed under chapter 458 or
39 chapter 459 who has board certification in a medical specialty
40 inclusive of care and treatment of tuberculosis, heart disease,
41 or hypertension.

42 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024.