CS/HB 637

| 1 | A bill to be entitled |
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| 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; providing |
| 8 | requirements for the firefighter's or officer's |
| 9 | workers compensation carrier, self-insured employer, |
| 10 | or third-party administrator; requiring the continuing |
| 11 | care and treatment by a medical specialist to be |
| 12 | reasonable, necessary, and related to the |
| 13 | firefighter's or officer's condition and authorized by |
| 14 | the workers compensation carrier, self-insured |
| 15 | employer, or third-party administrator; specifying a |
| 16 | reimbursement percentage for such treatment; defining |
| 17 | the term "medical specialist"; providing an effective |
| 18 | date. |
| 19 | |
| 20 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: |
| 21 | |
| 22 | Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 112.18, |
| 23 | Florida Statutes, to read: |
| 24 | 112.18 Firefighters and law enforcement or correctional |
| 25 | officers; special provisions relative to disability |
| | |
| | Page 1 of 3 |

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2024

CS/HB 637

2024

| 26 | (3)(a) Notwithstanding s. 440.13(2)(c), a firefighter, law |
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| 27 | enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional |
| 28 | probation officer requiring medical treatment for a compensable |
| 29 | presumptive condition listed in subsection (1) may be treated by |
| 30 | a medical specialist. Except in emergency situations, a |
| 31 | firefighter, law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or |
| 32 | correctional probation officer entitled to access a medical |
| 33 | specialist under this subsection must provide written notice of |
| 34 | his or her selection of a medical specialist to the |
| 35 | firefighter's or officer's workers compensation carrier, self- |
| 36 | insured employer, or third-party administrator, and the carrier, |
| 37 | self-insured employer, or third-party administrator must |
| 38 | authorize the selected medical specialist or authorize an |
| 39 | alternative medical specialist with the same or greater |
| 40 | qualifications. Within 5 business days after receipt of the |
| 41 | written notice, the workers compensation carrier, self-insured |
| 42 | employer, or third-party administrator must authorize treatment |
| 43 | and schedule an appointment, which must be held within 30 days |
| 44 | after receipt of the written notice, with the selected medical |
| 45 | specialist or the alternative medical specialist. If the workers |
| 46 | compensation carrier, self-insured employer, or third-party |
| 47 | administrator fails to authorize an alternative medical |
| 48 | specialist within 5 business days after receipt of the written |
| 49 | notice, the medical specialist selected by the firefighter or |
| 50 | officer is authorized. The continuing care and treatment by a |
| | |

Page 2 of 3

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CS/HB 637

2024

| 51 | medical specialist must be reasonable, necessary, and related to |
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| 52 | tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension; be reimbursed at |
| 53 | no more than 200 percent of the Medicare rate; and be authorized |
| 54 | by the firefighter's or officer's workers compensation carrier, |
| 55 | self-insured employer, or third-party administrator. |
| 56 | (b) For purposes of this subsection, the term "medical |
| 57 | specialist" means a physician licensed under chapter 458 or |
| 58 | chapter 459 who has board certification in a medical specialty |
| 59 | inclusive of care and treatment of tuberculosis, heart disease, |
| 60 | or hypertension. |
| 61 | Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2024. |
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