



951398

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Committee on Criminal Justice (DiCeglie) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 24 - 41

and insert:

(3) (a) Notwithstanding s. 440.13(2) (c), a firefighter, law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer requiring medical treatment for a compensable presumptive condition listed in subsection (1) may be treated by a medical specialist. Except in emergency situations, a firefighter, law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or



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11 correctional probation officer entitled to access a medical
12 specialist under this subsection must provide written notice of
13 his or her selection of a medical specialist to the
14 firefighter's or officer's workers' compensation carrier, self-
15 insured employer, or third-party administrator, and the carrier,
16 self-insured employer, or third-party administrator must
17 authorize the selected medical specialist or authorize an
18 alternative medical specialist with the same or greater
19 qualifications. Within 5 business days after receipt of the
20 written notice, the workers' compensation carrier, self-insured
21 employer, or third-party administrator must authorize treatment
22 and schedule an appointment, which must be held within 30 days
23 after receipt of the written notice, with the selected medical
24 specialist or the alternative medical specialist. If the
25 workers' compensation carrier, self-insured employer, or third-
26 party administrator fails to authorize an alternative medical
27 specialist within 5 business days after receipt of the written
28 notice, the medical specialist selected by the firefighter or
29 officer is authorized. The continuing care and treatment by a
30 medical specialist must be reasonable, necessary, and related to
31 tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension; be reimbursed at
32 no more than 200 percent of the Medicare rate; and be authorized
33 by the firefighter's or officer's workers' compensation carrier,
34 self-insured employer, or third-party administrator.

35
36 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

37 And the title is amended as follows:

38 Delete lines 11 - 14

39 and insert:



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40 medical specialist; providing requirements for the
41 firefighter's or officer's workers' compensation
42 carrier, self-insured employer, or third-party
43 administrator; requiring that the continuing care and
44 treatment by a medical specialist be reasonable,
45 necessary, and related to the firefighter's or
46 officer's condition and authorized by the workers'
47 compensation carrier, self-insured employer, or third-
48 party administrator; specifying a reimbursement