

By Senator DiCeglie

18-00704-24

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

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

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

22 112.18 Firefighters and law enforcement or correctional
23 officers; special provisions relative to disability.-

24 (3) (a) A firefighter or a law enforcement officer,
25 correctional officer, or correctional probation officer as
26 defined in s. 943.10(1), (2), or (3), respectively, requiring
27 medical treatment for a compensable presumptive condition listed
28 in subsection (1) may be treated by a medical specialist. Except
29 in emergency situations, a firefighter, law enforcement officer,

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

42 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the term "medical
43 specialist" means a physician licensed under chapter 458 or
44 chapter 459 who has board certification in a medical specialty
45 inclusive of care and treatment of tuberculosis, heart disease,
46 or hypertension.

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