

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to 911 public safety telecommunicator
3 employment-related mental or nervous injuries;
4 amending s. 112.1815, F.S.; defining the term "911
5 public safety telecommunicator"; providing that
6 specified provisions relating to certain medical
7 benefits for mental or nervous injuries for first
8 responders also apply to 911 public safety
9 telecommunicators; providing an effective date.

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

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13 **Section 1. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection**
14 **(2) of section 112.1815, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

15 112.1815 Firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical
16 technicians, ~~and~~ law enforcement officers, and 911 public safety
17 telecommunicators; special provisions for employment-related
18 accidents and injuries.—

19 (1) As used in this section, the term:

20 (a) "First responder" ~~as used in this section~~ means a law
21 enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10, a firefighter as
22 defined in s. 633.102, or an emergency medical technician or
23 paramedic as defined in s. 401.23 employed by state or local
24 government. A volunteer law enforcement officer, firefighter, or
25 emergency medical technician or paramedic engaged by the state

26 or a local government is also considered a first responder of
27 the state or local government for purposes of this section.

28 (b) "911 public safety telecommunicator" has the same
29 meaning as in s. 401.465(1).

30 (2)(a) For the purpose of determining benefits under this
31 section relating to employment-related accidents and injuries of
32 first responders and 911 public safety telecommunicators, the
33 following shall apply:

34 1. An injury or disease caused by the exposure to a toxic
35 substance is not an injury by accident arising out of employment
36 unless there is a preponderance of the evidence establishing
37 that exposure to the specific substance involved, at the levels
38 to which the first responder was exposed, can cause the injury
39 or disease sustained by the employee.

40 2. Any adverse result or complication caused by a smallpox
41 vaccination of a first responder is deemed to be an injury by
42 accident arising out of work performed in the course and scope
43 of employment.

44 3. A mental or nervous injury involving a first responder
45 or a 911 public safety telecommunicator and occurring as a
46 manifestation of a compensable injury must be demonstrated by
47 clear and convincing evidence. For a mental or nervous injury
48 arising out of the employment unaccompanied by a physical injury
49 involving a first responder or a 911 public safety
50 telecommunicator, only medical benefits under s. 440.13 shall be

51 payable for the mental or nervous injury. However, payment of
52 indemnity as provided in s. 440.15 may not be made unless a
53 physical injury arising out of injury as a first responder
54 accompanies the mental or nervous injury. Benefits for a first
55 responder are not subject to any limitation on temporary
56 benefits under s. 440.093 or the 1-percent limitation on
57 permanent psychiatric impairment benefits under s. 440.15(3)(c).
58 Benefits for a 911 public safety telecommunicator are not
59 subject to any limitation on temporary benefits under s.
60 440.093.

61 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.