

By Senator Pizzo

37-01186-26

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

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
(2) of section 112.1815, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
112.1815 Firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical  
technicians, ~~and~~ law enforcement officers, and 911 public safety  
telecommunicators; special provisions for employment-related  
accidents and injuries.—

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

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

(b) "First responder" ~~as used in this section~~ means a law  
enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10, a firefighter as  
defined in s. 633.102, or an emergency medical technician or  
paramedic as defined in s. 401.23 employed by state or local  
government. A volunteer law enforcement officer, firefighter, or  
emergency medical technician or paramedic engaged by the state  
or a local government is also considered a first responder of

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the state or local government for purposes of this section.

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

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

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

3. A mental or nervous injury involving a first responder or a 911 public safety telecommunicator and occurring as a manifestation of a compensable injury must be demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence. For a mental or nervous injury arising out of the employment unaccompanied by a physical injury involving a first responder or a 911 public safety telecommunicator, only medical benefits under s. 440.13 shall be payable for the mental or nervous injury. However, payment of indemnity as provided in s. 440.15 may not be made unless a physical injury arising out of injury as a first responder accompanies the mental or nervous injury. Benefits for a first responder are not subject to any limitation on temporary benefits under s. 440.093 or the 1-percent limitation on permanent psychiatric impairment benefits under s. 440.15(3)(c).

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59 Benefits for a 911 public safety telecommunicator are not  
60 subject to any limitation on temporary benefits under s.  
61 440.093.

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