

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB2276</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Int</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>7201</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. West, Josh</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>3/3/2021</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>See analysis below</b>

**Research Analysis**

HB 2276 deems a mental injury or illness a compensable injury for law enforcements officers, firefighters, or emergency medical technicians (referred to in the bill as first responders) who suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) while responding to an emergency. If the treating physician believes the first responder is temporarily unable to perform their job or any alternative work, the first responder is entitled to compensation which is the greater of the weekly benefit provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or 70 percent of the injured employee's average weekly wage not to exceed the state average weekly wage. Disability benefits shall not extend beyond 52 weeks.

The measure also provides that, if the Workers' Compensation Commission finds that a first responder has suffered PTSD not accompanied by a physical injury, the employer shall provide reasonable and necessary medical treatment for a period of no longer than one year. The employer shall not be responsible for treatment in the form of prescription medication in excess of \$10,000. The employer shall pay to maintain health insurance coverage for the first responder during any period in which they are unable to perform their job, if such insurance was in effect on the date of the injury.

Finally, the measure replaces references to the CompSource Mutual Insurance Company with references to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services with regard to workers' compensation insurance for volunteer firefighters.

Prepared By: Emily McPherson

**Fiscal Analysis**

The measure provides that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the absence of a physical injury is a compensable workers' compensation injury for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians employed on a full-time basis by a municipality, county, or the State of Oklahoma.

Upon review and with consultation from the Workers' Compensation Commission and the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, the measure is determined to have an unknown fiscal impact to the state.

The impact to the state results from the application of the provisions of the measure to those claimants that are state employees. The exact impact to the state would depend on the number and disposition of claims. Since these types of claims are not currently compensable, it is unknown what impact the measure would have.

Prepared By: Clayton Mayfield

**Other Considerations**

None.

© 2021 Oklahoma House of Representatives, see Copyright Notice at [www.okhouse.gov](http://www.okhouse.gov)