

BILL SUMMARY

1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.: HB 2398
Version: Conference Committee Substitute
Request Number: 8350
Author: Rep. Hays and Rep. West (Josh)
Date: 5/16/2023
Impact: Please see previous summary of this measure

Research Analysis

The conference committee substitute for HB 2398 qualifies mental injury or illness sustained by a first responder as a compensable workplace injury and provides compensation guidelines.

If a physician deems a first responder temporarily unable to work, they will receive 70 percent of their average weekly wage up to the state average wage or the greater of the weekly benefit provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or the employer's policy. The employer may also compensate the first responder with a temporary pension benefit. If a first responder is unable to return to work after reaching maximum medical improvement, they may be given permanent disability benefits.

If a first responder is deemed to have post-traumatic stress disorder, the employer will provide necessary treatment for up to one year but will not be responsible for prescription medication expenses exceeding \$10,000. Any city that incurs a claim relating to post-traumatic stress disorder may transfer payment of the claim or increased compensation premiums to the judgment rolls of the geographic area in which the department is located and will be listed on official publications as "First Responder PTSD".

The measure also extends the operations and term of the incumbent judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Existing Claims until July 1, 2025.

Prepared By: Autumn Mathews

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is currently under review and impact information will be completed.

Prepared By: House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.