

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB2398
Version:	SAHB
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Kannady
Date:	5/29/2023
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

The senate amendments to HB 2398 qualify 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 of up to \$50,000.

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 amendments also strike the title and update the effective date.

Prepared By: Autumn Mathews

Fiscal Analysis

This measure provides certain protections and entitlements to compensation for first responders who suffer post-traumatic stress disorder while responding to an emergency. Officials from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) provided the following information:

The DPS is unable to identify the exact impact this bill would have due to the fact this would be a new type of claim that has not been followed, nor is an agency always aware of this type of claim due to confidentiality requirements. DPS believes any impact to its budget will be minimal and absorbed by the agency. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact to the state.

The Senate Amendment to the House Bill does not create fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Robert Flipping IV, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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