

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1457
Version:	INT
Request No.:	2624
Author:	Sen. Treat
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Bill Analysis

SB 1457 expands the physical injury limitation exemption as it applies to worker compensation to include law enforcement officers, paid and volunteer firefighters, emergency medical technicians employed on a full-time basis by a political subdivision or the state, or a volunteer firefighter suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) received while responding to an emergency. Additionally, the measure provides that if a treating physician feels that the first responder temporarily cannot fulfill his or her duties due to a mental injury, the first responder shall be entitled to receive compensation which is the greater of the weekly benefit provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or according to the policy of the employer or 70% of the responder's wages. Disability shall not extend beyond 52 weeks. If the responder is still unable to return to his or her duties and is certified to have a permanent disability, he or she is may receive disability benefits up to \$50,000.00. The measure also provides that employers shall be required to pay up to \$10,000.00 for the treatment of a responder certified to have PTSD according to the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission. Employers shall be required to maintain health coverage. The measure defines PTSD.

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