

DRAFT PTSI BILL LANGUAGE



SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

- (a.) "Post-traumatic stress disorder" means that a disorder that meets the diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress, specified by the American Psychiatric Association in the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or most recent published edition.
- (b.) "Mental health professional" means a person with professional training, experience, and demonstrated competence in the treatment and diagnosis of mental conditions, who is certified or licensed to provide mental health services and for whom diagnosis of mental conditions are within their scope of practice, including a physician, nurse with recognized psychiatric specialties, psychiatrist, psychologist, clinical social worker, mental health counselor or therapist, or alcohol and drug abuse counselor.

SECTION 2: WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS

- (a.) Any condition of impairment of health caused by post-traumatic stress disorder or mental impairment diagnosed by a mental health professional resulting in total or partial disability of a fire fighter or emergency medical service provider shall be presumed to have been suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under the [STATE] Workers' Compensation Code.
- (b.) The condition diagnosed does not need to be based on unusual stress or circumstances of any greater dimension than the day-to-day emotional strain and tension experienced by fire fighters and emergency medical service providers.

SECTION 3:

- (a.) No condition that constitutes, in whole or in part, the basis of an application for benefits under Section 2 of this Act may be used, in whole or in part, by any employer as cause for discharge.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

- (a.) Be it further enacted that this Act shall take effect on [DATE]