

First Responder PTSI Bills Would Create an Expensive Unfunded Mandate August 2021

Senator Camera Bartolotta and Representative Frank Ryan introduced [Senate Bill 775](#) and [House Bill 1732](#) respectively to provide emergency service and public safety personnel benefits under workers' compensation for post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI), regardless of whether or not the injury is accompanied by a physical injury.

While The League supports increasing the awareness of PTSI in first responders and providing the necessary treatment, the current language of the bills would place an unsustainable mandate on local governments, estimated to cost approximately \$220,000 to \$240,000 per claim. The League, in partnership with other local government organizations, is calling for the bills to be amended in a manner that would ensure the PTSI benefit be sustainable and insurable at a reasonable cost to local governments and taxpayers.

The League and its coalition partners [sent a letter](#) to the Senate co-sponsors and leadership asking for amendments to SB 775, including, but not limited to:

- limiting the compensable injury to PTSI as an injury under the Workers' Compensation Act rather than a presumptive occupational disease;
- requiring the claimant's PTSI be caused by direct exposure to a defined traumatic event which would be specifically listed in the legislation;
- precluding injuries that occurred prior to the legislation's enactment date;
- making the effective date of the legislation at least 12 months after enactment to allow local governments and their insuring entities to adjust to the new law; and
- placing a duration cap on benefits to guard against runaway claims.

Please [reach out to your Senators](#) to express the need to create a more sustainable solution to providing PTSI benefits than what is currently in the bills as introduced. Please view our [PTSI talking points](#) to assist you with your local advocacy efforts.