
HOUSE BILL 1002

State of Washington

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2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Abbarno, Rude, Marshall, Callan, Doglio, Timmons, Goodman, Pollet, Davis, and Scott

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1 AN ACT Relating to recognizing posttraumatic stress disorder as
2 an occupational disease for county coroners, examiners, and
3 investigative personnel; and amending RCW 51.08.142.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 51.08.142 and 2023 c 370 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this
8 section, the department shall adopt a rule pursuant to chapter 34.05
9 RCW that claims based on mental conditions or mental disabilities
10 caused by stress do not fall within the definition of occupational
11 disease in RCW 51.08.140.

12 (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this subsection, the
13 rule adopted under subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to
14 occupational disease claims resulting from posttraumatic stress
15 disorders of firefighters as defined in RCW 41.26.030(17) (a), (b),
16 (c), and (h) and firefighters, including supervisors, employed on a
17 full-time, fully compensated basis as a firefighter of a private
18 sector employer's fire department that includes over ~~((fifty))~~ 50
19 such firefighters, ~~((and))~~ law enforcement officers as defined in RCW
20 41.26.030(19) (b), (c), and (e), ~~((and))~~ public safety
21 telecommunicators who receive calls for assistance and dispatch

1 emergency services, and county coroners and medical examiner
2 personnel.

3 (b) For firefighters as defined in RCW 41.26.030(17) (a), (b),
4 (c), and (h) and firefighters, including supervisors, employed on a
5 full-time, fully compensated basis as a firefighter of a private
6 sector employer's fire department that includes over ~~((fifty))~~ 50
7 such firefighters, ~~((and))~~ law enforcement officers as defined in RCW
8 41.26.030(19) (b), (c), and (e) hired after June 7, 2018, ~~((and))~~
9 public safety telecommunicators hired after June 11, 2020, and county
10 coroners and medical examiner personnel hired after January 1, 2026,
11 (a) of this subsection only applies if the firefighter ~~((or))~~, law
12 enforcement officer, ~~((or))~~ public safety telecommunicators, or
13 county coroner or medical examiner personnel, as a condition of
14 employment, has submitted to a psychological examination administered
15 by a psychiatrist licensed in the state of Washington under chapter
16 18.71 RCW or a psychologist licensed in the state of Washington under
17 chapter 18.83 RCW that ruled out the presence of posttraumatic stress
18 disorder from preemployment exposures. If the employer does not
19 provide the psychological examination, (a) of this subsection
20 applies.

21 (c) Posttraumatic stress disorder for purposes of this
22 subsection~~((s—(2)))~~ and subsection (3) of this section is not
23 considered an occupational disease if the disorder is directly
24 attributed to disciplinary action, work evaluation, job transfer,
25 layoff, demotion, termination, or similar action taken in good faith
26 by an employer.

27 (d) "Public safety telecommunicators" means individuals who
28 receive and respond to telephone or other electronic requests for
29 emergency assistance, such as law enforcement, fire, and medical
30 services, and dispatch appropriate emergency responders.

31 (e) "County coroner and medical examiner personnel" means
32 individuals who respond to, investigate, handle evidence, or conduct
33 autopsies for cases under the jurisdiction of a county coroner or
34 medical examiner.

35 (3)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, the rule adopted
36 under subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to occupational
37 disease claims resulting from posttraumatic stress disorders of
38 direct care registered nurses as defined in RCW 51.32.395.

39 (b) The limitation in subsection (2)(c) of this section also
40 applies to this subsection (3).

1 (c) This subsection (3) applies only to a direct care registered
2 nurse who has posttraumatic stress disorder that develops or
3 manifests itself after the individual has been employed on a fully
4 compensated basis as a direct care registered nurse in Washington
5 state for at least 90 consecutive days.

--- **END** ---