

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

H

1

HOUSE BILL 573

Short Title: Give WC for PTSD in First Responders. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Shepard, Torbett, and Saine (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Judiciary, if favorable, State and Local Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 4, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT PROVIDING THAT FIRST RESPONDERS ARE ENTITLED TO BENEFITS  
3 UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT FOR MENTAL OR NERVOUS  
4 INJURIES WHETHER OR NOT THE INJURIES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY PHYSICAL  
5 INJURIES UNDER SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 97-53 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

8 "(30) Special provisions for employment-related occupational diseases of first  
9 responders. - The following rules apply in determining eligibility for  
10 compensation under this subdivision:

11 a. The term "first responder," as used in this section, means a law  
12 enforcement officer, firefighter, or an emergency medical technician  
13 or paramedic employed by State or local government. A volunteer  
14 firefighter meeting the requirement of G.S. 58-84-5(3a) is also  
15 considered a first responder of the State or local government for  
16 purposes of this section.

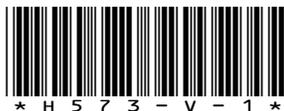
17 b. For the purposes of this section, posttraumatic stress disorder, as  
18 described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental  
19 Disorders, Fifth Edition, published by the American Psychiatric  
20 Association, suffered by a first responder without other injury is a  
21 compensable occupational disease that arises out of employment as a  
22 first responder and is due to causes and conditions that are  
23 characteristic of and peculiar to a particular trade, occupation, process,  
24 or employment if:

25 1. The posttraumatic stress disorder resulted from the first  
26 responder acting within the course of his or her employment.

27 2. The first responder is examined and subsequently diagnosed  
28 with such disorder by a licensed psychiatrist who is an  
29 authorized treating physician due to one or more of the  
30 following events:

31 I. Seeing for oneself a deceased minor.

32 II. Directly witnessing the death of a minor.



\* H 5 7 3 - V - 1 \*

