

- improve risk management practices for firefighter and law enforcement agencies.

HB 436 HCS 1 stipulates what the CIT training shall include, who shall present the curriculum, and how the curriculum shall be presented. The Kentucky Law Enforcement Council shall approve all of the above criteria.

HB 436 HCS 1 provides \$1,250,000 annually from the Firefighters Foundation Program Fund to fund a program to care for and treat all full-time professional and volunteer firefighters affected with post-traumatic stress (PTS) injury or post-traumatic stress disorder. A PTS injury resulting solely from a transfer, promotion, demotion, or termination shall not be considered a compensable injury. A firefighter shall be diagnosed with a PTS injury or PTSD that occurred in the course and scope of his or her employment as a full-time career or volunteer firefighter, regardless of whether or not there is an initial physical injury.

HB 436 HCS 1 provides that the firefighter may request reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses for mental health treatments paid by the firefighter after in-network health insurance has been utilized. Once a firefighter has been diagnosed, and starting from the date of the first treatment, there is a maximum limit of twelve months to receive the benefit.

The impact of HB 436 HCS 1 is indeterminable. This is a new area of concern. As a result, there is very little data available on a state, national, and even world basis. The funding for the program will be from the Firefighter Foundation Program Fund. No general fund money will be used.

Conversations with the Kentucky Firefighter's Association provided the following as a point of reference: there are currently only an estimated ten Lexington-Fayette County Firefighters suffering from PTS. That is from a Department that annually employees an average of 500 firefighters.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

HB 436 HCS 1 keeps the provisions of HB 436 as introduced except for the following:

- By removing prohibitive wording, a firefighter will be eligible for disability retirement as a result of a PTS disorder.
- Clarifies that a diagnoses of a PTS injury or a PTSD does not have to be preceded by a physical injury. Extends this provision to a volunteer firefighter.
- Clarifies that a firefighter may request reimbursement for out-of-pocket mental health expenses only after in-network health insurance has been utilized.

Part II refers to HB 436 as introduced.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, U.S. Fire Administration (within FEMA), Kentucky Firefighter's Association, Kentucky Professional Firefighters Local A-16

1. Black M.D., Daniel B. Development of PTSD in Firefighters.
verywellmind.com. Feb. 2020

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