

HB 44 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 or the Kentucky Fire Commission shall approve all of the above criteria.

HB 44 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 (PTSD). 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. The diagnosis must be made by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or by a professional credentialed counselor. Credentialed counselor means a credential holder who has been determined by the Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors to have met all provisions set forth in KRS 335.500 to 335.599.

HB 44 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 44 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. This Department annually employs an average of 500 firefighters.

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

HB 44 HCS 1 retains the original provisions of the bill, but specifies that, in regards to diagnosis of post-traumatic stress injury or disorder, the diagnosis is to be made by a professional, credentialed counselor, rather than just a counselor.

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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