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State: Fla.

Bill Would Allow Benefits for PTSD Among First Responders: SOUTH [2017-02-21]

Post-traumatic stress disorder among emergency first responders in Florida would be compensable, even if not accompanied by a physical injury, under legislation introduced by Sen. Keith Perry, R-Gainesville.



Sen. Keith Perry

[Senate Bill 516](#) would provide that a mental or nervous injury suffered by a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician or paramedic is compensable if a licensed psychiatrist finds that the injury meets the criteria for PTSD as described in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association.

The bill would apply to cases of PTSD that arise from an activity performed within the course of employment.

SB 516 has been referred to the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, and the Appropriations and Rules committees. If passed, it would take effect on July 1.