

HOUSE BILL 2577

By Ragan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7;  
Title 8; Title 33; Title 50, Chapter 6 and Title 56,  
relative to treatment of post-traumatic stress  
disorder.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-50-119(f), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead:

(f)

(1) If a public safety employee is diagnosed by a mental health professional with post-traumatic stress disorder, such injury is presumed to have been incurred in the line of duty and is compensable under the workers' compensation law, compiled in title 50, chapter 6, unless it is shown by a preponderance of evidence that the post-traumatic stress disorder was caused by nonservice-connected risk factors or nonservice-connected exposure.

(2) This subsection (f) applies to any public safety employee who is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder within three (3) years of the last active date of employment as a public safety employee.

(3) A mental condition resulting solely from any disciplinary action, work evaluation, job transfer, layoff, demotion, termination, or similar action taken in good faith by the employer is not considered an injury sustained in the line of duty under this subsection (f).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-50-119(b)(3), is amended by deleting the language "emergency medical worker or professional firefighter who is a paid, full-

time employee" and substituting instead the language "emergency medical worker, firefighter, law enforcement officer, or 911 dispatcher who is an employee".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-50-119(b)(4), is amended by deleting the language "on a full-time basis".

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.