

By: Patterson

H.B. No. 331

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to certain presumptions applicable to claims for benefits
3 or compensation for certain medical conditions brought by certain
4 first responders.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 607.056, Government Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 607.056. ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION OR STROKE. (a) A
9 firefighter, peace officer, or emergency medical technician who
10 suffers an acute myocardial infarction or stroke resulting in
11 disability or death is presumed to have suffered the disability or
12 death during the course and scope of employment as a firefighter,
13 peace officer, or emergency medical technician if:

14 (1) while on duty, the firefighter, peace officer, or
15 emergency medical technician:

16 (A) was engaged in a situation that involved
17 [~~nonroutine~~] stressful or strenuous physical activity involving
18 fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, emergency
19 medical services, law enforcement, or other emergency response
20 activity; or

21 (B) participated in a training exercise that
22 involved [~~nonroutine~~] stressful or strenuous physical activity;
23 and

24 (2) the acute myocardial infarction or stroke occurred

1 not later than eight hours after the end of a shift in which ~~[while]~~
2 the firefighter, peace officer, or emergency medical technician was
3 engaging in the activity described under Subdivision (1).

4 (b) For purposes of this section, "~~nonroutine~~ stressful
5 or strenuous physical activity" does not include clerical,
6 administrative, or nonmanual activities.

7 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
8 a claim for benefits or compensation brought on or after the
9 effective date of this Act. A claim for benefits or compensation
10 brought before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law
11 in effect on the date the claim was made, and the former law is
12 continued in effect for that purpose.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.