

By: Turner of Dallas, Wray, Darby, et al.

H.B. No. 2143

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the eligibility of a first responder for workers'  
3 compensation benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 504.019, Labor Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as  
7 follows:

8 (b) Post-traumatic stress disorder suffered by a first  
9 responder is a compensable injury under this subtitle only if it is  
10 based on a diagnosis that:

11 (1) the disorder is caused by one or more events [~~an~~  
12 ~~event~~] occurring in the course and scope of the first responder's  
13 employment; and

14 (2) the preponderance of the evidence indicates that  
15 the event or events were [~~was~~] a substantial contributing factor of  
16 the disorder.

17 (c) For purposes of this subtitle, the date of injury for  
18 post-traumatic stress disorder suffered by a first responder is the  
19 date on which the first responder first knew or should have known  
20 that the disorder may be related to the first responder's  
21 employment.

22 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
23 to a claim for workers' compensation benefits based on a  
24 compensable injury that occurs on or after the effective date of

1 this Act. A claim based on a compensable injury that occurs before  
2 that date is governed by the law as it existed on the date the  
3 compensable injury occurred, and the former law is continued in  
4 effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.