

South Carolina State Firefighters Legislative Update

S. 8: Bill by Senator Peeler referred to Committee on Medical Affairs

A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 1, TITLE 44, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**, SO AS TO RENAME THE CHAPTER THE "DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH" AND TO REORGANIZE THE CHAPTER TO CREATE THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, TO DELEGATE TO THE DIVISION THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HEALTH, TO ABOLISH THE DEPARTMENT AND BOARD OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR, AND TO TRANSFER ENVIRONMENTALLY RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL TO THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; TO AMEND CHAPTER 9, TITLE 44, RELATING, IN PART, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, SO AS TO CREATE THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH, TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES REFLECTING THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE DIVISION, AND TO ABOLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION; TO AMEND CHAPTER 49, TITLE 44, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES, SO AS TO CREATE THE DIVISION OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH, TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES REFLECTING THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE DIVISION, AND TO ABOLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES; BY ADDING CHAPTER 57 TO TITLE 46 SO AS TO CREATE A DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TRANSFER TO THE DIVISION THE DIVISIONS, OFFICES, AND PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL THAT PERFORM FUNCTIONS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION AND PROTECTION; TO AMEND SECTION 46-3-10, RELATING TO THE DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, SO AS TO ADD THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; TO AMEND SECTION 1-30-10, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT, SO AS TO DELETE THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, AND TO ADD THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH; TO AMEND SECTION 1-30-20, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES, SO AS TO CHANGE THE REFERENCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH; AND TO REPEAL SECTION 1-30-45 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND SECTION 1-30-70 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH.

S. 24: Bill by Senators Hutto and Jackson referred to Committee on Finance

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 12-21-625, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE SURTAX ON CIGARETTES, INCLUDING THE **DEFINITION OF "CIGARETTE"**, SO AS TO REVISE THE WEIGHT LIMITATION ON CIGARETTES FROM THREE POUNDS OR LESS PER ONE THOUSAND CIGARETTES TO FOUR AND ONE-HALF POUNDS OR LESS PER ONE THOUSAND CIGARETTES AND TO EXEMPT THOSE WRAPPED TOTALLY IN TOBACCO LEAF WITH NO FILTER, AND TO DEFINE "CIGARETTE" TO INCLUDE 0.325 OUNCES OF TOBACCO LIKELY INTENDED TO

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BE PURCHASED TO ROLL YOUR OWN CIGARETTES; AND TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO DETERMINE IF THERE ARE BARRIERS TO THE ENFORCEMENT OR COLLECTION OF CIGARETTE TAXES, TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO REMOVE THESE BARRIERS, AND TO REPORT THEIR FINDINGS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

[S.51](#): Bill by Sen. Malloy and Sen. Senn referred to Committee on Judiciary (similar to [H.3106](#) but excludes cancer language pertaining to Fire)

TO AMEND SECTION [42-1-160](#) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE DEFINITIONS OF "INJURY" AND "PERSONAL INJURY" IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION, TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION FOR "FIRST RESPONDER" AND TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH AN EMPLOYEE SEEKING WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR PERSONAL INJURY CAUSED BY POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER ARISING FROM THE FIRST RESPONDER'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN A SIGNIFICANT TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE.

**Workers comp language for PTSD treatment coverage.*

[S.173](#): Bill by Sen. Hembree referred to Committee on Finance

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION [12-6-1172](#) SO AS TO ALLOW A SOUTH CAROLINA INCOME TAX DEDUCTION OF ALL MILITARY RETIREMENT INCOME AND FIRST RESPONDER RETIREMENT INCOME; AND TO AMEND SECTION [12-6-1170](#), RELATING TO THE RETIREMENT INCOME DEDUCTION, SO AS TO MAKE A CONFORMING CHANGE.

**Removes income tax on retirement income for retired military personnel and retired first responders.*

[S. 201](#): Bill by Senator Young referred to Committee on Education

A BILL TO AMEND ARTICLE 9, CHAPTER 63, TITLE 59 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY DRILLS, BY ADDING SECTION 56-63-940, TO PROVIDE THAT EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL IS REQUIRED TO PREPARE A SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN, TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR THE PLAN, TO PROVIDE THAT THE PLAN MUST ADDRESS SECURITY ISSUES IN OR ON ANY REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY OR LEASED TO ANY PUBLIC SCHOOL, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION MUST PROVIDE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THIS STATE IN THE AREA OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SAFE SCHOOL OPERATIONS.

[S. 239](#): Bill by Senator Fanning referred to Committee on Education

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59-63-910, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO REQUIRED PUBLIC SCHOOL DRILLS, SO AS TO PROVIDE EACH SEMESTER ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INCLUDING CHARTER SCHOOLS WHOSE INSTRUCTION IS NOT PRIMARILY DELIVERED ONLINE, SHALL CONDUCT ONE FIRE DRILL, ONE ACTIVE SHOOTER/INTRUDER DRILL, AND ONE SEVERE WEATHER/ EARTHQUAKE DRILL.

[S.256](#): Bill by Sen. Fanning and Sen. McLeod referred to Committee on Finance

TO AMEND SECTION [9-1-1790](#), CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION THAT MAY BE EARNED UPON RETURNING TO COVERED EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE SOUTH CAROLINA RETIREMENT SYSTEM, SO AS TO EXEMPT CERTIFIED EDUCATORS FROM THE EARNINGS LIMITATION; AND TO AMEND SECTION [9-11-90](#), RELATING TO THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION THAT MAY BE EARNED UPON RETURNING

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TO COVERED EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE POLICE OFFICERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM, SO AS TO DELETE THE EARNINGS LIMITATION.

*Completely blows the CAP for PORS members which will cost the system.

[S. 274](#): Bill by Senator Senn referred to Committee on Judiciary

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 23-3-130 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE, 1976, RELATING TO CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS PROVIDED BY THE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, TO REQUIRE THE STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION TO PROVIDE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS TO THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF A STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WITHOUT CHARGE.

[S. 291](#): Bill by Senator Talley referred to Committee on General

A BILL TO AMEND TITLE 63 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDREN'S CODE, BY ADDING CHAPTER 10, TO CREATE THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS DIVIDED INTO TWO DIVISIONS, THE EARLY HEALTH AND WELLNESS DIVISION AND THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION DIVISION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE EARLY HEALTH AND WELLNESS DIVISION SHALL ADMINISTER THE BABYNET PROGRAM, THE NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, THE WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM, THE POSTPARTUM NEWBORN HOME VISIT PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, AND THE QTIP FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION GRANT FUNDED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION DIVISION SHALL ADMINISTER THE HEAD START COLLABORATION OFFICE FUNDED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, THE FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL READINESS INITIATIVE, THE OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING, THE ABC CHILDCARE PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, THE STATE CHILDCARE FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY OFFICE, THE STATE CHILDCARE LICENSING OFFICE, THE CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORK FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT; AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHILD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM, AS PROVIDED BY LAW; TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMS; AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE 1976 CODE TO REFLECT THE CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION.

[S.319](#): Bill by Senator Alexander referred to Committee on Judiciary (similar to [H.3078](#))

TO AMEND SECTION [16-3-600](#)(B)(1) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO VARIOUS ASSAULT AND BATTERY OFFENSES, TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A HIGH AND AGGRAVATED NATURE IF HE UNLAWFULLY INJURES A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER, A FIREFIGHTER, AN EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIAN, AN EMERGENCY ROOM NURSE, OR AN ALLIED HEALTH CARE WORKER, DURING THE COURSE OF HIS DUTIES, AND KNOWS OR HAS REASON TO KNOW OF THE INJURED PERSON'S STATUS, OR INJURES SOMEONE IN A HEALTH CARE FACILITY OR A PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE.

[S.326](#): Joint Resolution by Sen. Massey referred to Committee on Finance

Gives SLED authority to distribute \$250,000 to SCSFA for PTSD funding.

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[H.3078](#): Bill by Reps. Pope, Bryant & Caskey referred to Committee on Judiciary (similar to [S.319](#)) TO AMEND SECTION [16-3-600](#), CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO [ASSAULT AND BATTERY OFFENSES](#), SO AS TO ADD THAT ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A HIGH AND AGGRAVATED NATURE OCCURS WHEN A PERSON INJURES A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR CORRECTIONS OFFICER, [A FIREFIGHTER](#), OR AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) WORKER IN THE DISCHARGE OF OR BECAUSE OF THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES.

* Includes Firefighters and EMTs but excludes nurses.

[H.3106](#): Bill by Reps. Wheeler and Martin referred to Committee on LCI TO AMEND SECTION [42-1-160](#), CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE DEFINITIONS OF ["INJURY" AND "PERSONAL INJURY" IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION](#), SO AS TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION OF "FIRST RESPONDER" AND TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH AN EMPLOYEE SEEKING WORKERS' COMPENSATION FOR PERSONAL INJURY CAUSED BY STRESS, MENTAL INJURY, OR MENTAL ILLNESS, AND TO ADD MENTAL ILLNESS TO RELATED CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE COMPENSABLE IF RESULTING FROM A SIGNIFICANT TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE; AND TO AMEND SECTION [42-11-30](#), [RELATING TO THE PRESUMPTION THAT CERTAIN DISEASES SUSTAINED BY A FIREFIGHTER](#) ARE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES FOR THE PURPOSES OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION, SO AS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS ALSO MUST BE PRESUMED TO BE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES FOR THE PURPOSES OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION, TO DELETE A MINIMUM AGE FOR THE APPLICABILITY OF THIS SECTION, TO DELETE A REQUIREMENT THAT ELIGIBILITY FOR THIS PRESUMPTION BE CONDITIONED UPON THE MEDICAL CONDITION HAVING DEVELOPED WHILE THE FIREFIGHTER WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN FIREFIGHTING OR WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FROM THE LAST DATE HE ENGAGED IN FIREFIGHTING, TO PROVIDE A FIREFIGHTER WITH TEN YEARS OF SERVICE WHO SUSTAINS AN IMPAIRMENT OR INJURY CAUSED BY CANCER IS ENTITLED TO A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION THAT THIS IMPAIRMENT OR INJURY AROSE FROM AND IN THE COURSE OF HIS EMPLOYMENT AS A FIREFIGHTER, TO PROVIDE THIS PRESUMPTION IS CONDITIONED UPON CERTAIN MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE A PERSON IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE PASSED THE REQUISITE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION IF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FAILS TO REQUIRE OR OBTAIN THIS EXAMINATION UPON HIS ENTRY OF SERVICE.

*Workers comp language for PTSD treatment coverage and language includes coverage for firefighters diagnosed with cancer.

[H. 3178](#): Bill by Reps. Ridgeway and Bannister referred to Committee on LCI A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 23-9-10, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE [TRANSFER OF THE DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL](#) TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION AND THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, SO AS TO DELETE CERTAIN OBSOLETE LANGUAGE, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES, AND TO PROVIDE THE DIVISION OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY PROGRAM AREAS; TO AMEND SECTION 23-9-20, RELATING TO THE DUTIES OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, SO AS TO REVISE HIS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES; TO AMEND SECTION 23-9-25, RELATING TO THE VOLUNTEER STRATEGIC ASSISTANCE AND FIRE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM, SO AS TO REVISE GRANT APPLICATION AND FUNDING PROCEDURES; TO AMEND SECTION 23-9-30, RELATING

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TO RESIDENT FIRE MARSHALS, SO AS TO REVISE THEIR DUTIES AND WHO MAY EXERCISE THESE DUTIES, AND PROVIDE THAT THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL MAY PROMULGATE REGULATIONS REGARDING A FIRE MARSHAL'S TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION; TO AMEND SECTION 23-9-45, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF A CLASS D FIRE EQUIPMENT DEALER LICENSE OR A FIRE EQUIPMENT PERMIT, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL CLASSES OF LICENSES AND QUALIFICATIONS TO OBTAIN THESE LICENSES; TO AMEND SECTION 23-9-50, RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S AUTHORITY TO INSPECT CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND PREMISES, SO AS TO REVISE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UPON WHICH HE MAY ENTER A BUILDING OR PREMISE; TO AMEND THE TITLE OF CHAPTER 10, TITLE 23, RELATING TO THE "SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE ACADEMY" SO AS TO REVISE THE TITLE TO READ "SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE ACADEMY"; TO AMEND SECTION 23-10-10, RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE ACADEMY, SO AS TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES; TO AMEND SECTION 23-49-120, RELATING TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS OF FIRE EQUIPMENT, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION, DIVISION OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY ALSO MAY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF FIRE EQUIPMENT PURSUANT TO THIS PROVISION; TO AMEND SECTION 40-80-30, RELATING TO A FIREFIGHTER REGISTERING WITH THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL SO AS TO REVISES THE COST AND PROCESS OF OBTAINING CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL FIGHTER RECORDS; AND TO REPEAL SECTIONS 23-9-35, 23-9-40, 23-9-60, 23-9-110, AND 23-9-130 ALL RELATING TO DUTIES OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL.

[H. 3322](#): Bill by Reps. Pitts, Rutherford, G. M. Smith, Murphy, McCoy and Weeks referred to Committee on Judiciary

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 17-25-322, RELATING TO RESTITUTION TO CRIME VICTIMS, SO AS TORELATING TO FAILURE TO INSTALL **FIRE ALARM BOXES** IN HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS, SO AS TO DELETE THE MINIMUM PENALTY OF TEN DAYS IN PRISON FOR A VIOLATION..... RELATING TO NEGLIGENTLY **ALLOWING FIRE TO SPREAD** TO PROPERTY OF ANOTHER, SO AS TO DELETE THE MINIMUM SENTENCE REQUIRED FOR VIOLATIONS;..... RELATING TO INTERFERENCE WITH **FIRE AND POLICE ALARM BOXES**, SO AS TO DELETE THE MINIMUM SENTENCE REQUIRED FOR A VIOLATION;..... TO AMEND SECTION 23-35-150, RELATING TO **FIREWORKS**, SO AS TO DELETE THE MINIMUM SENTENCE REQUIRED FOR VIOLATIONS..... TO AMEND SECTION 40-56-200, RELATING TO **FIRE CODES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**, SO AS TO DELETE THE MINIMUM SENTENCE REQUIRED FOR A VIOLATION;;

[H.3373](#): Bill by Rep. Huggins referred to Committee on Judiciary

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION [15-3-710](#) SO AS PROVIDE THAT **A FIRST RESPONDER IS IMMUNE FROM CIVIL LIABILITY** FOR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM PROVIDING FIRST AID SERVICES TO A DOMESTIC ANIMAL IN THE COURSE OF RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY.

[H. 3388](#): Bill by Rep. Jordan referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 53-3-95 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE MONTH OF APRIL OF EACH YEAR IS DECLARED "MOVE OVER AWARENESS MONTH" IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO CONDUCT PROGRAMS

DURING THIS MONTH THAT EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVERS MOVING OVER INTO AN ADJACENT LANE WHENEVER POSSIBLE WHEN APPROACHING OR PASSING THROUGH A HIGHWAY WORK ZONE, AN **EMERGENCY** SCENE, OR ANY OTHER HIGHWAY TRAFFIC INCIDENT; BY ADDING SECTION 56-5-1539 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN STATE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES MUST ALLOW A DRIVER OF A WRECKER OR TOWING SERVICE VEHICLE TO TAKE TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING FREE OF CHARGE; AND TO AMEND SECTION 56-5-1538, REGARDING EMERGENCY SCENE MANAGEMENT, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES SHALL PRINT INFORMATION IN ITS DRIVER'S MANUALS RELATING TO THE STATE'S "MOVE OVER LAW".

Proviso [62.23](#): Funding for PTSD Treatment. *See S.326 for FY2018-19 distribution.*

(SLED: First Responder Treatment) From the funds provided for First Responder Treatment, the State Law Enforcement Division shall distribute fifty percent to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program to reimburse law enforcement officers who incur mental injury as a result of a critical incident during the scope of employment for actual out-of-pocket expenses not covered through workers compensation claims and/or other insurance and can also be utilized to provide services through the South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program. The State Law Enforcement Division shall distribute fifty percent to the South Carolina State Firefighters Association for the South Carolina Firefighter Assistance Support Team to reimburse firefighters and emergency medical technicians who incur mental injury as a result of a critical incident during the scope of employment for actual out-of-pocket expenses not covered through workers compensation claims and/or other insurance and can also be utilized to provide services through the South Carolina Firefighter Assistance Support Team. The State Law Enforcement Division shall promulgate any administrative regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

History: Proviso 62.23 (First Responder Treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - PTSD) was first adopted in the FY16-17 Appropriations Act and has been adopted in every budget since 2016. The General Assembly has historically funded \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds to SLED to be equally divided between law enforcement and fire/EMT for PTSD treatment. The funds are used to purchase two insurance policies (1- Law Enforcement and 2- Firefighters/Emergency Medical Technicians) to pay for out-of-pocket expenses not covered through workers comp or other insurance and to provide services through the South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program (SCLEAP) and the South Carolina Firefighter Assistance Support Team (SCFAST). Section 38-71-290 requires insurance companies to provide coverage for treatment for PTSD; therefore, costs to an officer, firefighter or EMT has been limited to co-pays and deductibles which are covered by the insurance policies purchased through this program. Additionally, funds can be used to provide PTSD services such as peer training of first responders to develop instructors statewide; provide informational sessions throughout the state on behavioral health, peer support and resources and providing immediate response to first responders involved in critical incidents and in need of assistance. For example, in 2018 there were 10 courses

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providing training to 113 instructors; 19 orientation sessions statewide where 537 were educated on the PTSD program and its resources; and 82 incidents representing 1,399 contacts to individuals needing help in processing and dealing with fatalities, fires, motor vehicle accidents, suicide, shootings, etc. The program is providing immediate services to first responders who are involved in critical incidents and in need of help.

Urban search-and-rescue (US&R) involves the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces. Urban search-and-rescue is considered a "multi-hazard" discipline, as it may be needed for a variety of emergencies or disasters, including earthquakes, hurricanes, storms and tornadoes, floods, dam failures, technological accidents, terrorist activities, and hazardous materials releases. The events may be slow in developing, as in the case of hurricanes, or sudden, as in the case of earthquakes. There is one statewide team and five smaller regional teams (Greenville, Columbia, Pee Dee, Charleston, Hilton Head) consisting of volunteer professionals from fire departments, EMTs, nurses, doctors, K-9 handlers, engineers, and other specialty disciplines. Each member volunteers approximately 240 hours per year with training and logistic missions. The team is supervised by the State Fire Marshal's Office. The US&R equipment is housed at the South Carolina Fire Academy. Many deployments have occurred over the years whereby many lives have been saved. The initial investment for the US&R team was made with Homeland Security grant funds. Since 2004 over \$10 million has been invested in the US&R initiative. Funds have been used to purchase boats, atvs, service trucks, tractor trailers, forklifts, personal protection gear, communications equipment, computers, software, etc. Much of the equipment and gear is in need of replacement. **Request:** The Fire Marshal's Office is requesting \$1,000,000 which the fire service supports. There should be a permanent funding source for the US&R initiative. Requested funds would be used to purchase replacement gear and equipment (see attached spreadsheet).

Pal800 Funding —> Proviso 93.18 located in the Department of Administration's Section of the Budget bill.

- Effective emergency response and management including lifesaving rescue operations are dependent on reliable two way radio communications for law enforcement, the fire service and emergency medical services. State Emergency Management Division plans rely on the Palmetto 800 system, a public/private partnership between state and local governments and Motorola which allows units from across the state to communicate wherever they are needed. The system is funded by fees paid by state and local agencies.
- The proviso was placed in the budget years ago and the funding has been eroded over time.
- **Current funding for the statewide radio proviso is \$1.2 million.** In FY07-08 it was \$5 million which represented a match of \$1 dollar for every \$3 dollars spent for interoperability by state and local responders. Today, the match is approximately 5 cents on the dollar spent. State and

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local agencies are turning off their radios because of the lack of funding. The radio is a lifeline for many of our smaller communities. We are requesting an additional \$7.8 million to bring us back to the \$1 dollar match for every \$3 spent.

- School shootings are a real threat in South Carolina, 100 year floods and storms are becoming annual events, and active shooters are more and more prevalent. Having the ability to call for assistance from neighboring counties and across the state is critical.
 - You need only to look at the Townville Elementary School shooting, Florence Shooting, hurricane evacuations, and recent floods to know that the statewide radio system is critical for a quick response to events and ensuring safety for our citizens and responders.

Governor's Budget —> This budget takes action to lower the tax burden on military veterans and first responders – including retired state and federal law enforcement, firefighters and peace officers – through a full retirement income exemption.

- RFA has scored these proposals, determining that retired first responders will save an average of \$729.35 per year for those under 65 and \$112.85 for those over 65. For military retirees, yearly savings will average \$464.81 for those under 65 and \$137.70 for those over 65. In total, this exemption represents \$20,742,570 in relief.
- Fiscal Impact —> \$9,143,000