

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred House Bill No. 197
3 entitled “An act relating to mental health parity for workers’ compensation”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended in Sec. 1, 21 V.S.A. § 601(11)(I), by striking out subdivision
6 (I) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (I) to read as
7 follows:

8 (I)(i) In the case of police officers, rescue or ambulance workers, or
9 firefighters, post-traumatic stress disorder that is diagnosed by a mental health
10 professional shall be presumed to have been incurred during service in the line
11 of duty and shall be compensable, unless it is shown by a preponderance of the
12 evidence that the post-traumatic stress disorder was caused by nonservice-
13 connected risk factors or nonservice-connected exposure.

14 (ii) A police officer, rescue or ambulance worker, or firefighter
15 who is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder within three years of the
16 last active date of employment as a police officer, rescue or ambulance worker,
17 or firefighter shall be eligible for benefits under this subdivision (11).

18 (iii) As used in this subdivision (11)(I):

19 (I) “Firefighter” means a firefighter as defined in 20 V.S.A.
20 § 3151(3) and (4).

1 (II) “Mental health professional” means a person with
2 professional training, experience, and demonstrated competence in the
3 treatment and diagnosis of mental conditions who is certified or licensed by
4 this State to provide mental health care services and for whom diagnoses of
5 mental conditions are within his or her scope of practice, including a physician,
6 nurse with recognized psychiatric specialties, psychologist, clinical social
7 worker, mental health counselor, or alcohol or drug abuse counselor.

8 (III) “Police officer” means a law enforcement officer who has
9 been certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council pursuant to
10 20 V.S.A. chapter 151.

11 (IV) “Rescue or ambulance worker” means ambulance service,
12 emergency medical personnel, first responder service, and volunteer personnel
13 as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2651.

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16 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE