

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 89 entitled “An act relating to expanding survivor benefits”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 3171 is amended to read:

8 § 3171. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this chapter:

10 * * *

11 (3) “Emergency personnel” means:

12 (A) firefighters as defined in subdivision 3151(3) of this title; ~~and~~

13 (B) emergency medical personnel and volunteer personnel as defined
14 in 24 V.S.A. § 2651;

15 (C) law enforcement officers who have been certified by the Vermont
16 Criminal Justice Council pursuant to section 2358 of this title;

17 (D) facility employees of the Department of Corrections and
18 Department of Corrections employees who provide direct security and
19 treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community;

20 (E) classified employees of the Family Services Division of the
21 Department for Children and Families; and

1 (F) classified employees of State-operated therapeutic community
2 residences or inpatient psychiatric hospital units.

3 (4) “Line of duty” means:

4 (A) ~~answering or returning from~~ with respect to firefighters,
5 emergency medical personnel, and volunteer personnel:

6 (i) service in answer to a call of the department or service for a
7 fire or emergency or, including going to and returning from a fire or
8 emergency or participating in a fire or emergency training drill; or

9 ~~(B)(ii)~~ (ii) similar service in another town or district to which the
10 department or service has been called for firefighting or emergency purposes;

11 (B) with respect to law enforcement officers:

12 (i) service as a law enforcement officer in answer to a complaint
13 lodged with the department or in response to a disorder, including going to,
14 returning from, and investigating or responding to the complaint or disorder; or

15 (ii) service under orders from the department or in any emergency
16 for which the law enforcement officer serves as a law enforcement officer;

17 (C) with respect to covered employees of the Department of
18 Corrections, discharging their duties as employees;

19 (D) with respect to classified family services employees in the
20 Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families,
21 discharging their duties as employees; and

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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10 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE