

HB 1785 -- Counseling for Railroad Workers

Sponsor: Meadows

This bill requires railroad corporations and companies to provide railroad operating crews involved in an accident which results in a death or serious bodily injury with:

- (1) Counseling or other critical incident stress debriefing services within 48 hours;
- (2) Full compensation for all wages they would have received if they had completed their trip or tour of duty if relieved of their duties at the site of the accident;
- (3) An option to remain off duty for up to 72 hours after they were removed from duty as a result of an accident; and
- (4) Immediate notification of their rights.

An engineer returning to duty after an accident may request another qualified person to accompany him or her for an amount of time sufficient to guarantee the public safety.

Railroad companies or corporations may be exempt from the provisions of the bill if an existing arrangement or collective bargaining agreement provides services equivalent to those required in the bill.