

## HCS SS SB 24 -- VULNERABLE PERSONS

FIRST RESPONDERS (Sections 67.145, 70.631, 105.500, 170.310, 190.091, 190.100, 190.103, 190.142, 190.147, 190.327, 190.460, 192.2405, 208.1032, 285.040, 321.225, 321.620, 537.037, 650.320, 650.330, 650.335, 650.340)

The bill adds telecommunicator first responders to the definition of "first responder" in various chapters of statute, and it creates a definition for "Missouri State Highway Patrol telecommunicator". It also replaces the definition of "Emergency medical technician-paramedic" or "EMT-P" and "Emergency medical technician-basic" or "EMT-B" with a definition for the term "paramedic" in Section 190.100, RSMo and modifies the definition of "emergency medical dispatcher". The bill removes the terms "ambulance attendants" and "attendant drivers".

The bill also modifies provisions related to the Missouri 911 Service Board.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES (Section 161.244)

The bill specifies that, subject to appropriation, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall provide grants directly to private entities for the provision of early childhood education services.

## CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Sections 190.255, 195.206, 579.088)

The bill specifies that any qualified first responder may obtain and administer, and any licensed drug distributor or pharmacy in Missouri may sell, any drug or device approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that blocks the effects of an opioid overdose and is administered in a manner approved by the FDA.

The bill specifies that it is not unlawful to manufacture, possess, sell, deliver, or use any device, equipment, or other material for the purpose of analyzing controlled substances to detect the presence of fentanyl or any synthetic controlled substance fentanyl analogue.

## TAX CREDITS (Section 135.327, 135.331, 135.333)

The bill modifies provisions related to tax credits for those individuals who adopt a special needs child. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, the total of the tax credits allowed per child will be adjusted annually for increases in cost-of-living as of the preceding July over the level of July of the

immediately preceding year of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. Beginning the same year, there will be no limit imposed on the cumulative amount of tax credits that may be claimed by taxpayers claiming the credit for nonrecurring adoption expenses. Beginning the same year, any amount of tax credit that is issued and that exceeds the tax due will be refunded to the tax payer.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES (190.134 and 190.327)

The bill repeals a provisions that prohibits an emergency services board from Clay or Jefferson County from imposing a sales tax for emergency services greater than on-quarter of one percent.

The bill also repeals a provision requiring a dispatch agency to have a memorandum of understanding with all ambulance services that it dispatches and requiring a dispatch agency that provides prearrival medical instructions to have a medical director.

#### PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS (Section 190.1010)

The bill creates new provisions relating to communications during peer support counseling programs for certain first responders. With exceptions, detailed in the bill, a communication made by a first responder or peer support advisor in a peer support counseling session, as well as any oral or written information conveyed in the peer support counseling session, will be confidential and will not be disclosed by any person participating in the peer support counseling session or released to any person or entity. Any communication relating to a peer support counseling session made confidential under this bill that is made between peer support advisors and the supervisors or staff of a peer support counseling program, or between the supervisor and staff of a peer support counseling program, will be confidential and will not be disclosed, except as otherwise specified in the bill.

An employer of a first responder that establishes a peer support counseling program shall develop a policy or rule that imposes disciplinary measures against a peer support advisor who violates the confidentiality of the peer support counseling program by sharing information learned in a peer support counseling session with personnel who are not supervisors or staff of the peer support counseling program, unless otherwise exempted under the provisions of this bill.

The bill specifies that no employer may mandate that any employee participate in a peer support counseling program.

POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER DIAGNOSED IN FIRST RESPONDERS  
(Section 287.067)

The bill adds Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to the diseases recognized as compensable occupational diseases when PTSD is diagnosed in a first responder. The bill specifies the qualifying events in order for a first responder to be diagnosed with PTSD for the purpose of compensation as an occupational disease.

SECOND INJURY FUND (Section 287.715)

Currently, the Director of the Division of Workers' Compensation collects a supplemental surcharge not to exceed 3% for calendar years 2014 to 2022 of the policyholder's or self-insured's workers' compensation net deposits, net premiums, or net assessments for the previous policy year, rounded up to the nearest one-half of a percentage point, for the purpose of the Second Injury Fund. This bill changes it to a surcharge not to exceed 1% for the calendar years 2014 to 2026, and it is rounded up to the nearest one-quarter of a percentage point. The bill extends the expiration of this provision to December 31, 2026, from December 31, 2023.

VOLUNTARY CRITICAL ILLNESS BENEFITS POOL (Sections 287.245,  
320.400)

Currently, a voluntary cancer benefits pool may be established for the purpose of providing benefits for firefighters who have contracted cancer in connection with employment as a firefighter. This bill changes the name of the pool to a voluntary critical illness benefits pool and expands the pool to allow other first responders, specifically emergency medical technician-basic, emergency medical technician-paramedic, and telecommunicators, to have access to benefits through the pool for exposure to or diagnosis of a critical illness, as defined in the bill. A payment may be made from the pool to a covered individual for the actual award, up to \$10,000, for seeking treatment with a licensed psychiatrist or a licensed psychologist and any subsequent courses of treatment recommended by such licensed individuals. If a covered individual returns to the same position of employment after a post traumatic stress injury diagnosis, the covered individual may receive benefits in this section for the continued treatment of such injury or any subsequently covered posttraumatic stress injury diagnosis.

Currently, the State Fire Marshal is allowed to disburse grants to voluntary critical illness pools. This provision expires June 30, 2023. This bill repeals the expiration date.

MISSOURI TASK FORCE ONE (Section 320.336)

This bill requires that any member of Missouri Task Force One who is called to active duty be entitled to employment rights and discrimination protections when the member is relieved from such duty. The Attorney General will enforce such rights.

#### VICTIMS' RIGHTS (Section 595.209)

The bill clarifies that victims and witnesses of crimes are able to receive notification from the Statewide Automated Crime Victim Notification System by electronic mail.

#### HEALTH CARE (Section 192.530, 197.020, and Section 1)

The bill adds a facility designated as a rural emergency hospital by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to the definition of "hospital" for the purposes of hospital licensing law.

The Department of Health and Senior Services must include on its website an Advance Health Care Directive Form and directions for completing the Form. The Department must also include a listing of possible uses for an Advance Health Care Directive, including to limit pain control to nonopioid measures.

This bill also repeals Section 192.530 from HB 402 (2023) relating to voluntary nonopioid directive forms.