



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 72		DATE: 2/19/2025	
COMMITTEE: Local Government			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 11:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of this Bill and its intention of covering Volunteer Firefighters with Worker's Compensation if they are injured with responding to or performing Firefighter Duties. The Wages will be calculated from the Volunteer Firefighters Regular Wages from their Primary Employment. We NEED to ensure that are Volunteer Firefighters are covered and made whole for serving our Communities across Our Great State.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KYLE MARQUART		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TIM FRANKENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tpfrankenberg@washmo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 9:26 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Committee, There are 755 registered fire departments and fire protection districts in the great State of Missouri. According to the US Fire Administration, 70.9% of those departments are all volunteer and 12.5% are mostly volunteer. Once outside of the larger metropolitan area, a majority of the state is protected with volunteer firefighters. This includes the pride of Missouri with FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) MO Task Force 1. The members to MO TF1 when training are working as volunteers conducting technical and high risk exercises to remain proficient rescuers. The Worker's Compensation for volunteer emergency responders is broken in the State. There are insurers that will only pay up to \$40.00 per week for a salary compensation. A first responder that is significantly injured protecting their community or working on the highways are subject to losing everything they have and being in financial ruin due to insurers relying on a Statute that is allegedly misapplied, however in effect. The underlying issue is the Statute 287.200 (5) and the application of the \$40 a week compensation as the base minimum. Some of the insurance providers have leveraged this number on emergency responder injuries and line of duty deaths. At this rate, injured first responders will lose their homes, vehicles and other obligations as they are not able to work while injured. Some insurance companies have asserted that since there is not a W2 wage, there is nothing to base the rate. There are many mechanisms to use such as the MIRMA method using like wages from neighboring agencies not to exceed a persons salary. This bill is intended to fix the loophole some insurers use to not cover first responders for lost wages due to injury or loss wages to family due to a line of duty death. This is not a cost to the State. The local jurisdiction will be responsible for the premiums as they are responsible for all insurance premiums. This bill removes the unrealistic minimum. I have witnessed this first hand and as a fire chief ensured that our organization carries a gap insurance policy as the worker's compensation will not pay the lost wages. The worker's compensation is excellent in the medical care, however, some leave a lot to be desired. This is not a request for a hand out or money from the State. This is a request to fix the system, require the insurers to do some work, premiums and let the local entities provide the coverage to protect their first responders. The State Fire Marshal's Office has a grant program to the lower income emergency response entities to help pay for the coverage in place. Many of the volunteer emergency response entities do not know they are not covered. They pay for worker's compensation and do not realize there is no weekly or bi-weekly income. The passing of a hat, bake sales, raffles and Go Fund Me accounts are not appropriate means to take care of first responders injured in the line of duty. When you leave to return to your homes, most of you will drive through a community that is protected by dedicated and willing volunteer emergency responders. I ask for you support is correcting the Statute and protecting those that protect you when you leave Jefferson City. Yours in service, Tim Frankenberg, Fire Chief Washington Fire Department



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK BONNOT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-817-2554	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MIRMA		TITLE: LOSS CONTROL DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 3002 FALLING LEAF COURT			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 12:00 AM	
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