

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Worker's compensation-dispatchers.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Interim
Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to worker's compensation; amending
2 definitions to provide specified worker's compensation
3 benefits to dispatchers; and providing for an effective
4 date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 27-14-102(a)(xxxi) is amended to
9 read:

10

11 **27-14-102. Definitions.**

12

1 (a) As used in this act:

2

3 (xxxi) "First responder" means a peace officer
4 or an employee who is employed or volunteers as a
5 firefighter, search and rescue personnel, ~~or~~ ambulance
6 personnel or a dispatcher as defined in W.S. 9-1-
7 701(a)(xiii);

8

9 *****
10 *****
11 **STAFF COMMENT**

12
13 **The definition of "dispatcher" cited above reads as**
14 **follows:**

15
16 9-1-701. Definitions.

17
18 (a) As used in this act:

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20 (xiii) "Dispatcher" means a person who is
21 employed by a state, county or municipal law enforcement
22 agency, fire service or licensed ambulance service on a
23 full or part-time basis, to answer and dispatch calls for
24 emergency and nonemergency situations via designated law
25 enforcement and emergency telecommunications equipment;

26
27 **By including dispatchers within the definition of "first**
28 **responder" above, dispatchers will qualify for worker's**
29 **compensation for mental injuries, as indicated by W.S. 27-**
30 **14-102(a)(xi)(J)(II):**

31
32 27-14-102. Definitions.

33
34 (a) As used in this act:

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36 (xi) "Injury" means any harmful change in the
37 human organism other than normal aging and includes damage

1 to or loss of any artificial replacement and death, arising
2 out of and in the course of employment while at work in or
3 about the premises occupied, used or controlled by the
4 employer and incurred while at work in places where the
5 employer's business requires an employee's presence and
6 which subjects the employee to extrahazardous duties
7 incident to the business. "Injury" does not include:

8
9 (J) Any mental injury unless it is:

10
11 (II) Experienced by a *first responder*
12 and established by clear and convincing evidence, which
13 shall include a diagnosis by a licensed psychiatrist,
14 licensed clinical psychologist or psychiatric mental health
15 nurse practitioner meeting criteria established in the most
16 recent edition of the diagnostic and statistical manual of
17 mental disorders published by the American Psychiatric
18 Association. The mental injury shall not be considered a
19 compensable injury if the mental injury is directly
20 attributed to disciplinary action, work evaluation, job
21 transfer, layoff, demotion, termination or similar action
22 taken by an employer. In no event shall any disability
23 benefit for a compensable mental injury under this
24 subdivision extend more than thirty-six (36) months beyond
25 the diagnosis of a compensable injury.

26
27 *****
28 *****
29

30 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2027.

31
32 (END)