STATE OF NEW YORK

7272

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 7, 2025

Introduced by Sens. GOUNARDES, JACKSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to benefits for police officers, correction officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel diagnosed with PTSD

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 207-a of the general municipal law, as amended by chapter 27 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

1. Any paid firefighter which term as used in this section shall mean any paid officer or member of an organized fire company or fire department of a city of less than one million population, or town, village or fire district, or any paid firefighter of a county airport or county aviation department which performs fire response or fire rescue duties, who is injured in the performance of [~~his or her~~] **their** duties or who is taken sick as a result of the performance of [~~his or her~~] **their** duties so as to necessitate medical or other lawful remedial treatment, shall be paid by the municipality or fire district by which [~~he or she is~~] **they are** employed the full amount of [~~his or her~~] **their** regular salary or wages until [~~his or her~~] **their** disability arising therefrom has ceased, and, in addition, such municipality or fire district shall be liable for all medical treatment and hospital care furnished during such disability. **For the purposes of this section, such disability shall include post-traumatic stress disorder, as diagnosed by a psychiatrist or psychologist, and shall be presumed to have been incurred during service in the line of duty and shall be compensable under this section, unless it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence that that post-traumatic stress disorder was caused solely by nonservice-connected risk factors or nonservice-connected exposure.** Provided, however, and

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD07842-02-5

notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the municipal health authorities or any physician appointed for the purpose by the municipality or fire district, may attend any such injured or sick firefighter, from time to time, for the purpose of providing medical, surgical, or other treatment, or for making inspections and the municipality or fire district shall not be liable for salary or wages payable to such a firefighter, or for the cost of medical or hospital care or treatment furnished, after such date as the health authorities or such physician shall certify that such injured or sick firefighter has recovered and is physically able to perform [~~his or her~~] **their** regular duties in the company or department. Any injured or sick firefighter who shall refuse to accept such medical treatment or hospital care or shall refuse to permit medical inspections as herein authorized, including examinations resulting from the application of subdivision two hereof, shall be deemed to have waived [~~his or her~~] **their** rights under this section in respect to expenses incurred for medical treatment or hospital care or salary or wages payable after such refusal.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a provider of medical treatment or hospital care furnished pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not collect or attempt to collect reimbursement for such treatment or care from any such member of the fire department of any such city.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 207-c of the general municipal law, as amended by section 55 of chapter 476 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

1. Any sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff or corrections officer of the sheriff's department of any county or any member of a police force of any county, city of less than one million population, town or village, or of any district, agency, board, body or commission thereof, or any LIRR police officer as defined in paragraph two of subdivision a of section three hundred eighty-nine of the retirement and social security law whose benefits are provided in and pursuant to such section three hundred eighty-nine, or a detective-investigator or any other investigator who is a police officer pursuant to the provisions of the criminal procedure law employed in the office of a district attorney of any county, or any corrections officer of the county of Erie department of corrections, or an advanced ambulance medical technician employed by the county of Nassau, or any detention officer employed by the city of Yonkers, or any supervising fire inspector, fire inspector, fire marshal, or assistant fire marshal employed full-time in the county of Nassau fire marshal's office, or at the option of the county of Nassau, any probation officer of the county of Nassau who is injured in the performance of [~~his or her~~] **their** duties or who is taken sick as a result of the performance of [~~his or her~~] **their** duties so as to necessitate medical or other lawful remedial treatment shall be paid by the municipality or The Long Island Rail Road Company by which [~~he or she is~~] **they are** employed the full amount of [~~his or her~~] **their** regular salary or wages from such employer until [~~his or her~~] **their** disability arising therefrom has ceased, and, in addition such municipality or The Long Island Rail Road Company shall be liable for all medical treatment and hospital care necessitated by reason of such injury or illness. **For the purposes of this section, such disability shall include post-traumatic stress disorder, as diagnosed by a psychiatrist or psychologist, and shall be presumed to have been incurred during service in the line of duty and shall be compensable under this section, unless it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence that that post-traumatic stress**

disorder was caused solely by nonservice-connected risk factors or nonservice-connected exposure. Provided, however, and notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the municipal or The Long Island Rail Road Company health authorities or any physician appointed for the purpose by the municipality or The Long Island Rail Road Company, as relevant, after a determination has first been made that such injury or sickness was incurred during, or resulted from, such performance of duty, may attend any such injured or sick police officer, from time to time, for the purpose of providing medical, surgical or other treatment, or for making inspections, and the municipality or The Long Island Rail Road Company, as the case may be, shall not be liable for salary or wages payable to such police officer, or for the cost of medical treatment or hospital care furnished after such date as such health authorities or physician shall certify that such injured or sick police officer has recovered and is physically able to perform [~~his or her~~] **their** regular duties. Any injured or sick police officer who shall refuse to accept medical treatment or hospital care or shall refuse to permit medical inspections as herein authorized, including examinations pursuant to subdivision two of this section, shall be deemed to have waived [~~his or her~~] **their** rights under this section in respect to expenses for medical treatment or hospital care rendered and for salary or wages payable after such refusal.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a provider of medical treatment or hospital care furnished pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not collect or attempt to collect reimbursement for such treatment or care from any such police officer, any such advanced ambulance medical technician or any such detention officer.

§ 3. Subdivision 1 of section 207-c of the general municipal law, as amended by section 56 of chapter 476 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

1. Any sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff or corrections officer of the sheriff's department of any county (hereinafter referred to as a "police officer") or any member of a police force of any county, city of less than one million population, town or village, or of any district, agency, board, body or commission thereof, or a detective-investigator or any other investigator who is a police officer pursuant to the provisions of the criminal procedure law employed in the office of a district attorney of any county, or any corrections officer of the county of Erie department of corrections, or an advanced ambulance medical technician employed by the county of Nassau, or any detention officer employed by the city of Yonkers, or any supervising fire inspector, fire inspector, fire marshal or assistant fire marshal employed full-time in the county of Nassau fire marshal's office, or at the option of the county of Nassau, any probation officer of the county of Nassau who is injured in the performance of [~~his or her~~] **their** duties or who is taken sick as a result of the performance of [~~his or her~~] **their** duties so as to necessitate medical or other lawful remedial treatment shall be paid by the municipality by which [~~he or she is~~] **they are** employed the full amount of [~~his or her~~] **their** regular salary or wages until [~~his or her~~] **their** disability arising therefrom has ceased, and, in addition such municipality shall be liable for all medical treatment and hospital care necessitated by reason of such injury or illness. **For the purposes of this section, such disability shall include post-traumatic stress disorder, as diagnosed by a psychiatrist or psychologist, and shall be presumed to have been incurred during service in the line of duty and shall be compensable under this section, unless it is shown by a prepon-**

derance of the evidence that that post-traumatic stress disorder was caused solely by nonservice-connected risk factors or nonservice-connected exposure. Provided, however, and notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the municipal health authorities or any physician appointed for the purpose by the municipality, after a determination has first been made that such injury or sickness was incurred during, or resulted from, such performance of duty, may attend any such injured or sick police officer, from time to time, for the purpose of providing medical, surgical or other treatment, or for making inspections and the municipality shall not be liable for salary or wages payable to such police officer, or for the cost of medical treatment or hospital care furnished after such date as such health authorities or physician shall certify that such injured or sick police officer has recovered and is physically able to perform [~~his or her~~] their regular duties. Any injured or sick police officer who shall refuse to accept medical treatment or hospital care or shall refuse to permit medical inspections as herein authorized, including examinations pursuant to subdivision two of this section, shall be deemed to have waived [~~his or her~~] their rights under this section in respect to expenses for medical treatment or hospital care rendered and for salary or wages payable after such refusal.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a provider of medical treatment or hospital care furnished pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not collect or attempt to collect reimbursement for such treatment or care from any such police officer, a member of a police force of any county, city, any such advanced ambulance medical technician, any such detention officer or any such detective-investigator or any other such investigator who is a police officer pursuant to the provisions of the criminal procedure law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the amendments to subdivision 1 of section 207-c of the general municipal law made by section three of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as chapter 628 of the laws of 1991, takes effect.