

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SHB 1655

Providing Industrial Insurance Coverage for Stress-caused Mental Disorders and Disabilities of Members of the Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement System

(2017-2018 Legislative Sessions)

This review assumes that SHB 1655 may result in some Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System (LEOFF) members filing industrial insurance claims for stress-related mental conditions or disabilities and that some of those claims will be accepted. This in turn would lead to the use of mental health services. Evidence indicates that use of mental health services has the potential to improve mental and physical health outcomes and decrease health disparities by occupation.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Representatives Lovick, Holy, Griffey, Hayes, Sells, Doglio, Stokesbary, Frame, Irwin, Fitzgibbon, Pike, Fey, Goodman, Pollet, Stanford

Summary of Bill:

- Provides that the exclusion for stress-caused mental conditions or disabilities from industrial insurance occupational disease does not apply to members of the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System (LEOFF).

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This review assumes that if the current exclusion for stress-caused mental conditions or disabilities from industrial insurance occupational disease no longer applies to members of the LEOFF that this would result in some members filing claims and that some portion of those claims would be accepted. This in turn would lead to the use of mental health services and time-loss benefits. This informed assumption is based on discussions with staff from the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention Program (SHARP), LEOFF, and the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF).

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in SHB 1655:

- Strong evidence that increasing use of mental health services among LEOFF members experiencing stress-caused mental health conditions and disabilities would likely lead to improved mental and physical health outcomes.
- Strong evidence that improving health outcomes for LEOFF members would likely decrease health disparities by occupation.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2018-07-HB1655.pdf>

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