

As Passed by the Senate

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Sub. H. B. No. 308

Representative Patton

Cosponsors: Representatives Boggs, DeVitis, LaRe, Sweeney, Abrams, Baldridge, Blair, Boyd, Brent, Brown, Butler, Callender, Carfagna, Carruthers, Cera, Clites, Crawley, Cross, Crossman, Denson, Edwards, Galonski, Ghanbari, Greenspan, Grendell, Hicks-Hudson, Hillyer, Howse, Ingram, Jones, Kelly, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Lightbody, Liston, Manning, D., Manning, G., Miller, J., Miranda, O'Brien, Oelslager, Patterson, Perales, Plummer, Richardson, Robinson, Rogers, Russo, Sheehy, Skindell, Smith, K., Sobecki, Stein, Stephens, Strahorn, Swearingen, Sykes, Upchurch, Weinstein, West

Senators Schuring, Hoagland, Antonio, Blessing, Brenner, Burke, Craig, Dolan, Eklund, Fedor, Gavarone, Hackett, Hottinger, Huffman, S., Johnson, Kunze, Maharath, Manning, O'Brien, Peterson, Rulli, Schaffer, Wilson, Yuko

A BILL

To enact section 126.65 of the Revised Code to	1
establish a fund to provide compensation and	2
benefits to first responders with post-traumatic	3
stress disorder and to study the financial and	4
administrative requirements for that fund.	5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 126.65 of the Revised Code be	6
enacted to read as follows:	7
 <u>Sec. 126.65. (A) The state post-traumatic stress fund is</u>	8
<u>created in the state treasury. The director of budget and</u>	9
<u>management shall be the trustee of the fund.</u>	10

(B) The state post-traumatic stress fund shall be used for 11
the following purposes: 12

(1) Payment of compensation for lost wages that result 13
from a public safety officer being disabled by post-traumatic 14
stress disorder received in the course of, and arising out of, 15
employment as a public safety officer but without an 16
accompanying physical injury; 17

(2) Payment of medical, nurse, therapy, and hospital 18
services and medicines required to treat a public safety officer 19
diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder received in the 20
course of, and arising out of, employment as a public safety 21
officer but without an accompanying physical injury; 22

(3) Payment of administrative costs incurred in providing 23
the compensation and benefits described in divisions (B)(1) and 24
(2) of this section. 25

(C) No employer shall discharge, demote, reassign, or take 26
any punitive action against any public safety officer because 27
the officer filed a claim or instituted, pursued, or testified 28
in any proceedings related to compensation or benefits paid from 29
the state post traumatic stress fund as a result of a diagnosis 30
of post-traumatic stress disorder received in the course of, and 31
arising out of, employment as a public safety officer but 32
without an accompanying physical injury. Any such officer may 33
file an action in the common pleas court of the county of the 34
officer's employment in which the relief which may be granted 35
shall be limited to reasonable attorney fees and reinstatement 36
with back pay, if the action is based on discharge, or an award 37
for wages lost if based upon demotion, reassignment, or punitive 38
action taken, offset by earnings subsequent to discharge, 39
demotion, reassignment, or punitive action taken. The action 40

shall be forever barred unless filed within one hundred eighty 41
days immediately following the discharge, demotion, 42
reassignment, or punitive action taken, and no action may be 43
instituted or maintained unless the employer has received 44
written notice of a claimed violation of this section within the 45
ninety days immediately following the discharge, demotion, 46
reassignment, or punitive action taken. 47

Section 2. (A) The Board of Trustees of the Ohio Police 48
and Fire Pension Fund, in consultation with the entities listed 49
in division (B) of this section, shall have prepared by a 50
disinterested third-party actuary an actuarial valuation of the 51
funding requirements of the state post-traumatic stress fund 52
established by section 126.65 of the Revised Code, as enacted by 53
Section 1 of this act. The actuary shall complete the valuation 54
in accordance with actuarial standards of practice promulgated 55
by the actuarial standards board of the American academy of 56
actuaries. The Board shall be reimbursed by the Office of Budget 57
and Management for up to five hundred thousand dollars for the 58
expenses incurred in preparing the study. The actuary shall 59
prepare a report of the actuarial analysis, which shall include 60
only the following: 61

(1) A description of lost wage compensation and medical 62
benefit amounts evaluated; 63

(2) A description of the participant group or groups 64
included in the report; 65

(3) A projection of the number of participants eligible 66
for compensation and benefits from the fund; 67

(4) A projection of the potential claims per year; 68

(5) A projection of the average benefit amount based on 69

weekly wage;	70
(6) A projection of the cost of health care and pharmacy	71
benefits;	72
(7) A cost comparison showing the projected administrative	73
costs differentials based on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio	74
Police and Fire Pension Fund creating a program versus	75
contracting with other private and public entities;	76
(8) A cost comparison as to which, if any, state	77
retirement system or other administrator is best suited to	78
administer the state post-traumatic stress fund;	79
(9) A review of how other states administer funds that are	80
similar to the state post-traumatic stress fund;	81
(10) An analysis of whether an administrative appeals	82
process is necessary or useful to the resolution of claims for	83
compensation, benefits, or both from the state post-traumatic	84
stress fund;	85
(11) If it is determined that an administrative appeals	86
process is necessary or useful to the resolution of claims, an	87
analysis of which entity is best suited to administer the	88
process;	89
(12) An analysis of any other issue identified by the	90
entities listed in division (B) of this section.	91
(B) With respect to the study and report required under	92
division (A) of this section, the Board shall consult with all	93
of the following entities:	94
(1) The Ohio Chamber of Commerce;	95
(2) The National Federation of Independent Business;	96

(3) The Ohio Manufacturers' Association;	97
(4) The County Commissioners Association of Ohio;	98
(5) The Ohio Township Association;	99
(6) The Ohio Municipal League;	100
(7) The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio;	101
(8) The Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters;	102
(9) The Public Employees Retirement Board;	103
(10) The State Teachers Retirement Board;	104
(11) The School Employees Retirement Board;	105
(12) The State Highway Patrol Retirement Board.	106
(C) The study and report required under division (A) of	107
this section shall be completed not later than October 1, 2021.	108
Copies of the report shall be transmitted to the Board of	109
Trustees of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, the Director	110
of Budget and Management, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the	111
House of Representatives, and the President and Minority Leader	112
of the Senate immediately on its availability.	113