

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 1056
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40549-LR-129

Short Title: WC/COVID-19/Cover Essential Workers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Richardson.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW TO PROVIDE
3 OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE COVERAGE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND HEALTH
4 CARE WORKERS WHO CONTRACT CORONAVIRUS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 97-53 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 97-53. Occupational diseases ~~enumerated; when due to exposure to chemicals and~~
8 conditions enumerated.

9 The following diseases and conditions only shall be deemed to be occupational diseases
10 within the meaning of this Article:

- 11 ...
- 12 (30) Coronavirus infection contracted by a covered person. – The following rules
13 apply in determining eligibility for compensation under this subdivision:
- 14 a. The term "covered person," as used in this subdivision means (i) a law
15 enforcement officer, jailer, prison guard, firefighter, emergency
16 medical technician, or paramedic employed by a State or local
17 government, including a volunteer firefighter meeting the requirement
18 of G.S. 58-84-5(3a) or (ii) a health care worker.
- 19 b. The term "coronavirus" as used in this subdivision has the same
20 meaning as defined in section 506 of the Coronavirus Preparedness
21 and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020, Public Law
22 No. 116-123.
- 23 c. A coronavirus infection contracted by a covered person shall be
24 presumed to be due to exposure in the course of the covered person's
25 employment. The presumption may only be rebutted by clear and
26 convincing evidence."

27 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to claims for
28 workers' compensation benefits filed on or after that date.

