



State of Wisconsin  
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0117/1  
MIM&MED:amn

## 2021 BILL

1     **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 102.17 (4) and 102.58; *to amend* 102.04 (2m),  
2           102.13 (2) (a), 102.29 (6m) (a) 3., 102.315 (1) (c), 102.315 (2), 102.42 (1), 102.49  
3           (5) (b), 102.49 (5) (c) and 102.49 (5) (e); and *to create* 102.04 (2g), 102.17 (9),  
4           102.29 (6m) (a) 1m., 102.315 (2e), 102.315 (2m), 102.315 (2s), 102.42 (1p),  
5           102.44 (7) and 102.49 (5) (cm) of the statutes; **relating to:** various changes to  
6           the worker's compensation law.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill makes various changes to the worker's compensation law, as administered by the Department of Workforce Development and the Division of Hearings and Appeals in the Department of Administration (DHA).

#### **PAYMENT OF BENEFITS; OTHER PAYMENTS**

##### ***Liability for public safety officers***

This bill makes changes to the conditions of liability for worker's compensation benefits for a law enforcement officer or a fire fighter (public safety officer) who is diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The bill provides that if a public safety officer is diagnosed with PTSD by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist and the mental injury that resulted in that diagnosis is not accompanied by a physical injury, that public safety officer can bring a claim for worker's compensation benefits if the conditions of liability are proven by

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a preponderance of the evidence and the mental injury is not the result of a good-faith employment action by the person's employer. Under current law, an injured employee who does not have an accompanying physical injury must demonstrate a diagnosis based on unusual stress of greater dimensions than the day-to-day emotional strain and tension experienced by all employees as required under *School District No. 1 v. DILHR*, 62 Wis. 2d 370, 215 N.W.2d 373 (1974). Under the bill, such an injured public safety employee is not required to demonstrate a diagnosis based on that standard, and instead must demonstrate a diagnosis based on the new standard.

The bill also limits liability for treatment for a mental injury that is compensable under the bill's provisions to no more than 32 weeks after the injury is first reported. Under the bill, a public safety officer is restricted to compensation for a mental injury that is not accompanied by a physical injury and that results in a diagnosis of PTSD three times in his or her lifetime irrespective of a change of employer or employment.

***Payments in cases of injuries resulting in death***

Current law provides that, in each case of an injury resulting in death leaving no person dependent for support or leaving one or more persons partially dependent for support, the employer or insurer must pay into the work injury supplemental benefit fund (WISBF) the amount of the death benefit otherwise payable. This bill does the following:

1. Allows such amounts due to be paid in advance of when they would otherwise be due, including as a single, lump-sum payment. If an employer or insurer makes an advance or lump-sum payment, the bill requires DWD to give the employer or the insurer an interest credit, computed as otherwise provided under current law. Current law requires, in the case of a death leaving no dependents, that the payments be made in five equal annual installments.

2. Provides that, in the case of a violation of an employer policy against drug or alcohol use that is causal to an employee's injury resulting in death who leaves no person dependent for support or leaving one or more persons partially dependent for support, no payment is required to be made to WISBF. Current law provides that, in the case of such a violation, then neither the employee nor the employee's dependents may receive any compensation under the worker's compensation law for that injury, other than costs for treating the injury, but does not exempt the employer or insurer from the payment to WISBF.

***Furnishing of billing statements***

This bill requires a health care provider to furnish to the representative or agent of a worker's compensation insurer a complete billing statement for treatment of an injury for which an employee claims compensation upon request.

**COVERAGE; LIABILITY*****Leased employees***

Under current law, employee leasing companies are generally liable for injuries to their leased employees under the worker's compensation law. This bill provides that a client of an employee leasing company may instead assume the liability for

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leased employees under an employee leasing agreement. The bill also provides that if a client terminates or otherwise does not provide worker's compensation insurance coverage for the leased employees, the employee leasing company is liable for injuries to those leased employees under the worker's compensation law.

***Statute of limitations***

This bill clarifies that for worker's compensation claims the statute of limitations applies to an individual's employer, the employer's insurance company, and any other named party.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

1           **SECTION 1.** 102.04 (2g) of the statutes is created to read:

2           102.04 **(2g)** Liability under s. 102.03 with respect to a leased employee, as  
3 defined in s. 102.315 (1) (g), shall be determined as provided in s. 102.315 (2) or (2m)  
4 (c), whichever is applicable.

5           **SECTION 2.** 102.04 (2m) of the statutes is amended to read:

6           102.04 **(2m)** ~~A Except as otherwise provided in an employee leasing agreement~~  
7 ~~that meets the requirements of s. 102.315 (2m),~~ a temporary help agency is the  
8 employer of an employee whom the temporary help agency has placed with or leased  
9 to another employer that compensates the temporary help agency for the employee's  
10 services. ~~A Except as provided in s. 102.315 (2m) (c),~~ a temporary help agency is  
11 liable under s. 102.03 for all compensation and other payments payable under this  
12 chapter to or with respect to that employee, including any payments required under  
13 s. 102.16 (3), 102.18 (1) (b) 3. or (bp), 102.22 (1), 102.35 (3), 102.57, or 102.60. Except  
14 as permitted under s. 102.29, a temporary help agency may not seek or receive  
15 reimbursement from another employer for any payments made as a result of that  
16 liability.

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1           **SECTION 3.** 102.13 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           102.13 (2) (a) An employee who reports an injury alleged to be work-related  
3 or files an application for hearing waives any physician-patient,  
4 psychologist-patient, or chiropractor-patient privilege with respect to any condition  
5 or complaint reasonably related to the condition for which the employee claims  
6 compensation. Notwithstanding ss. 51.30 and 146.82 and any other law, any  
7 physician, chiropractor, psychologist, dentist, podiatrist, physician assistant,  
8 advanced practice nurse prescriber, hospital, or health care provider shall, within a  
9 reasonable time after written request by the employee, employer, worker's  
10 compensation insurer, or department, or division, or its representative, provide that  
11 person with any information or written material reasonably related to any injury for  
12 which the employee claims compensation. If the request is by a representative of a  
13 worker's compensation insurer for a billing statement, the physician, chiropractor,  
14 psychologist, dentist, podiatrist, physician assistant, advanced practice nurse  
15 prescriber, hospital, or health care provider shall, within 30 days after receiving the  
16 request, provide that person with a complete copy of an itemized billing statement  
17 or a billing statement in a standard billing format recognized by the federal  
18 government.

19           **SECTION 4.** 102.17 (4) of the statutes is renumbered 102.17 (4) (a) and amended  
20 to read:

21           102.17 (4) (a) Except as provided in this subsection and s. 102.555 (12) (b), in  
22 the case of occupational disease, the right of an employee, the employee's legal  
23 representative, ~~or a dependent,~~ the employee's employer or the employer's insurance  
24 company, or other named party to proceed under this section shall not extend beyond  
25 12 years after the date of the injury or death or after the date that compensation,

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1 other than for treatment or burial expenses, was last paid, or would have been last  
2 payable if no advancement were made, whichever date is latest, and in the case of  
3 traumatic injury, that right shall not extend beyond 6 years after that date.

4 (b) In the case of occupational disease; a traumatic injury resulting in the loss  
5 or total impairment of a hand or any part of the rest of the arm proximal to the hand  
6 or of a foot or any part of the rest of the leg proximal to the foot, any loss of vision,  
7 or any permanent brain injury; or a traumatic injury causing the need for an  
8 artificial spinal disc or a total or partial knee or hip replacement, there shall be no  
9 statute of limitations, except that benefits or treatment expense for an occupational  
10 disease becoming due 12 years after the date of injury or death or last payment of  
11 compensation, other than for treatment or burial expenses, shall be paid from the  
12 work injury supplemental benefit fund under s. 102.65 and in the manner provided  
13 in s. 102.66 and benefits or treatment expense for such a traumatic injury becoming  
14 due 6 years after that date shall be paid from that fund and in that manner if the date  
15 of injury or death or last payment of compensation, other than for treatment or burial  
16 expenses, is before April 1, 2006.

17 (c) Payment of wages by the employer during disability or absence from work  
18 to obtain treatment shall be considered payment of compensation for the purpose of  
19 this section if the employer knew of the employee's condition and its alleged relation  
20 to the employment.

21 **SECTION 5.** 102.17 (9) of the statutes is created to read:

22 102.17 (9) (a) In this subsection:

23 1. "Fire fighter" means any person employed on a full-time basis by the state  
24 or any political subdivision as a member or officer of a fire department, including the  
25 1st class cities and state fire marshal and deputies.

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1           2. “Post-traumatic stress disorder” means that condition, as described in the  
2 5th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders by the  
3 American Psychiatric Association.

4           (b) Subject to par. (c), in the case of a mental injury that is not accompanied by  
5 a physical injury and that results in a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder in  
6 a law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 23.33 (1) (ig), or a fire fighter, the claim for  
7 compensation for the mental injury, in order to be compensable under this chapter,  
8 is subject to all of the following:

9           1. The mental injury must satisfy all of the following conditions:

10           a. The diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder is made by a licensed  
11 psychiatrist or psychologist.

12           b. The conditions of liability under s. 102.03 (1) are proven by the  
13 preponderance of the evidence.

14           2. The mental injury may not be a result of any of the following actions taken  
15 in good faith by the employer:

16           a. A disciplinary action.

17           b. A work evaluation.

18           c. A job transfer.

19           d. A layoff.

20           e. A demotion.

21           f. A termination.

22           3. The diagnosis does not need to be based on unusual stress of greater  
23 dimensions than the day-to-day emotional strain and tension experienced by  
24 similarly situated employees.

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1 (c) No individual may receive compensation for a claim of mental injury under  
2 this subsection more than 3 times in his or her lifetime. The limitation under this  
3 paragraph applies irrespective of whether the individual becomes employed by a  
4 different employer or in a different position with the same employer.

5 **SECTION 6.** 102.29 (6m) (a) 1m. of the statutes is created to read:

6 102.29 (6m) (a) 1m. The employee leasing company that employs the leased  
7 employee.

8 **SECTION 7.** 102.29 (6m) (a) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

9 102.29 (6m) (a) 3. Any employee of the client ~~or, any employee of that other an~~  
10 employee leasing company described in subd. 2., or the employee leasing company  
11 that employs the leased employee, unless the leased employee who has the right to  
12 make a claim for compensation would have a right under s. 102.03 (2) to bring an  
13 action against the employee of the client, the employee leasing company that  
14 employs the leased employee, or the leased employee of the ~~other~~ employee leasing  
15 company described in subd. 2., if the employees and leased employees were  
16 coemployees.

17 **SECTION 8.** 102.315 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 102.315 (1) (c) “Divided workforce” means a workforce in which some of the  
19 employees of a client are leased employees and some of the employees of the client  
20 are not leased employees, but does not include a workforce with respect to a client  
21 that has elected to provide insurance coverage for leased employees under sub. (2m).

22 **SECTION 9.** 102.315 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 102.315 (2) EMPLOYEE LEASING COMPANY LIABLE. ~~An~~ Except as otherwise  
24 provided in an employee leasing agreement that meets the requirements of sub.  
25 (2m), an employee leasing company is liable under s. 102.03 for all compensation

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1 payable under this chapter to a leased employee, including any payments required  
2 under s. 102.16 (3), 102.18 (1) (b) 3. or (bp), 102.22 (1), 102.35 (3), 102.57, or 102.60.  
3 If a client that makes an election under sub. (2m) (a) terminates the election, fails  
4 to provide the required coverage, or allows coverage to lapse, the employee leasing  
5 company is liable under s. 102.03 as set forth in this subsection. Except as permitted  
6 allowed under s. 102.29, an employee leasing company may not seek or receive  
7 reimbursement from another employer for any payments made as a result of that  
8 liability. An employee leasing company is not liable under s. 102.03 for any  
9 compensation payable under this chapter to an employee of a client who is not a  
10 leased employee.

11 **SECTION 10.** 102.315 (2e) of the statutes is created to read:

12 102.315 (2e) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE LEASING AGREEMENT. If an employee  
13 leasing company terminates an employee leasing agreement with a client that has  
14 made an election under sub. (2m) (a), the company shall provide notice of the  
15 termination of an employee leasing agreement to the department and the client, on  
16 a form prescribed by the department, at least 30 days before the termination of the  
17 employee leasing agreement. The notice provided under this subsection must  
18 contain all of the following information:

19 (a) The name, mailing address, and federal employer identification number of  
20 the employee leasing company.

21 (b) The name, mailing address, and federal employer identification number of  
22 the client.

23 (c) The effective date of the termination of the employee leasing agreement.

24 (d) The signatures of the authorized representatives of the client and the  
25 employee leasing company.



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1           **SECTION 11.** 102.315 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

2           102.315 **(2m)** CLIENT ELECTION TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE. (a) A client  
3           may elect to provide insurance coverage under this chapter for leased employees.  
4           Such an election must be provided in an employee leasing agreement, and the leased  
5           employees must be insured in the voluntary market and not under a mandatory  
6           risk-sharing plan under s. 619.01.

7           (b) The client shall provide notice of an election or termination of an election  
8           under par. (a) to the department and the employee leasing company on a form  
9           prescribed by the department at least 30 days before the effective date of the election  
10          or termination of the election. The notice provided under this subsection must  
11          contain all of the following information:

12           1. The name, mailing address, and federal employer identification number of  
13          the client.

14           2. The name, mailing address, and federal employer identification number of  
15          the employee leasing company.

16           3. The effective date of the employee leasing agreement.

17           4. The signatures of the authorized representatives of the client and the  
18          employee leasing company.

19           (c) A client that elects to provide insurance coverage under par. (a) is liable  
20          under s. 102.03 for all compensation payable to a leased employee, including any  
21          payments required under s. 102.16 (3), 102.18 (1) (b) 3. or (bp), 102.22 (1), 102.35 (3),  
22          102.57, or 102.60.

23           (d) If a client makes an election under par. (a), the employee leasing company  
24          shall include the client's federal employer identification number on any reports to the

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1 department for the purposes of administering the worker's compensation program  
2 or the unemployment insurance program under ch. 108.

3 (e) The experience rating under the standards and criteria under ss. 626.11 and  
4 626.12 remain with a client that makes an election under par. (a).

5 **SECTION 12.** 102.315 (2s) of the statutes is created to read:

6 102.315 (2s) CLAIM REPORTING. Any claim filed under this chapter for a leased  
7 employee shall include the client's federal employer identification number.

8 **SECTION 13.** 102.42 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 102.42 (1) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEE. The Subject to the limitations under sub.  
10 (1p), the employer shall supply such medical, surgical, chiropractic, psychological,  
11 podiatric, dental, and hospital treatment, medicines, medical and surgical supplies,  
12 crutches, artificial members, appliances, and training in the use of artificial  
13 members and appliances, or, at the option of the employee, Christian Science  
14 treatment in lieu of medical treatment, medicines, and medical supplies, as may be  
15 reasonably required to cure and relieve from the effects of the injury, and to attain  
16 efficient use of artificial members and appliances, and in case of the employer's  
17 neglect or refusal seasonably to do so, or in emergency until it is practicable for the  
18 employee to give notice of injury, the employer shall be liable for the reasonable  
19 expense incurred by or on behalf of the employee in providing such treatment,  
20 medicines, supplies, and training. When the employer has knowledge of the injury  
21 and the necessity for treatment, the employer's failure to tender the necessary  
22 treatment, medicines, supplies, and training constitutes such neglect or refusal. The  
23 employer shall also be liable for reasonable expense incurred by the employee for  
24 necessary treatment to cure and relieve the employee from the effects of occupational  
25 disease prior to the time that the employee knew or should have known the nature

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1 of his or her disability and its relation to employment, and as to such treatment subs.  
2 (2) and (3) shall not apply. The obligation to furnish such treatment and appliances  
3 shall continue as required to prevent further deterioration in the condition of the  
4 employee or to maintain the existing status of such condition whether or not healing  
5 is completed.

6 **SECTION 14.** 102.42 (1p) of the statutes is created to read:

7 102.42 (1p) LIABILITY FOR TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MENTAL INJURIES. The employer  
8 of an employee whose injury is a mental injury that is compensable under s. 102.17  
9 (9) is liable for the employee's treatment of the mental injury for no more than 32  
10 weeks after the injury is first reported.

11 **SECTION 15.** 102.44 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

12 102.44 (7) In the case of an employee whose injury is a mental injury that is  
13 compensable under s. 102.17 (9), the period of disability may not exceed 32 weeks  
14 after the injury is first reported.

15 **SECTION 16.** 102.49 (5) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 102.49 (5) (b) In addition to the payment required under par. (a), in each case  
17 of injury resulting in death leaving no person dependent for support, the employer  
18 or insurer shall, except as provided in s. 102.58 (2), pay into the state treasury the  
19 amount of the death benefit otherwise payable, minus any payment made under s.  
20 102.48 (1), The payment under this paragraph shall, except as provided in par. (cm),  
21 be made in 5 equal annual installments, with the first installment due as of the date  
22 of death.

23 **SECTION 17.** 102.49 (5) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 102.49 (5) (c) In addition to the payment required under par. (a), in each case  
25 of injury resulting in death, leaving one or more persons partially dependent for

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1 support, the employer or insurer shall, except as provided in s. 102.58 (2), pay into  
2 the state treasury an amount which, when added to the sums paid or to be paid on  
3 account of partial dependency and under s. 102.48 (1), shall equal the death benefit  
4 payable to a person wholly dependent.

5 **SECTION 18.** 102.49 (5) (cm) of the statutes is created to read:

6 102.49 (5) (cm) The employer or insurer may make advance payments of  
7 amounts owed under par. (b) or (c), up to and including a lump sum payment of the  
8 entire amount owed. If an employer or insurer makes an advance payment, the  
9 department shall give the employer or the insurer an interest credit against its  
10 liability for payments made in excess of that required under par. (b) or (c). The credit  
11 shall be computed at 5 percent.

12 **SECTION 19.** 102.49 (5) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 102.49 (5) (e) The adjustments in liability provided in ss. 102.57, 102.58 (1),  
14 and 102.60 do not apply to payments made under this section.

15 **SECTION 20.** 102.58 of the statutes is renumbered 102.58 (1) and amended to  
16 read:

17 102.58 (1) If injury is caused by the failure of the employee to use safety devices  
18 that are provided in accordance with any statute, rule, or order of the department  
19 of safety and professional services and that are adequately maintained, and the use  
20 of which is reasonably enforced by the employer, or if injury results from the  
21 employee's failure to obey any reasonable rule adopted and reasonably enforced by  
22 the employer for the safety of the employee and of which the employee has notice, the  
23 compensation and death benefit provided in this chapter shall be reduced by 15  
24 percent, but the total reduction may not exceed \$15,000.

