

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 19

Resolution No. 41-26

Mr. David Marks, Councilman

By the County Council, October 19, 2026

A RESOLUTION of the Baltimore County Council encouraging the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation during the 2027 Legislative Session regarding Occupational Disease Presumptions for First Responders Workers Compensation.

WHEREAS, First Responders such as police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and 911 operators are the first to arrive on the scene of an emergency or accident, putting their lives on the line without hesitation; and

WHEREAS, while working to save the lives of others, First Responders often put their own lives and mental wellbeing at risk, incurring physical and mental injury, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that can sometimes be fatal; and

WHEREAS, historically, workers' compensation systems are primarily focused on physical injuries, leaving mental health injury claims to be treated more narrowly because of concerns involving causation, proof standards, and the difficulty of distinguishing workplace trauma from broader life stressors; and

WHEREAS, that approach has changed in recent years, as more have rightly recognized that First Responders often face extraordinary psychological trauma as part of their jobs; and

WHEREAS, legislation establishing Workers Compensation presumptions for PTSD treatment coverage remains an active issue both nationally and within Maryland, with occupational

disease presumptions continuing to expand in many jurisdictions, and mental health coverage for First Responders is increasingly becoming a central policy priority; and

WHEREAS, in its 2024 legislative session, the General Assembly considered HB 190/SB 1069 that would have established First Responder PTSD presumptions, specifically making PTSD presumptively compensable for qualifying First Responders diagnosed by licensed mental health professionals if certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS, despite the State legislative bodies in Alaska, Arizona, and Oklahoma passing similar legislation in 2024, the Maryland House of Delegates voted on March 1, 2024, to refer HB 190/SB 1069 for interim study; and

WHEREAS, it is the understanding of this Resolution's sponsor that Delegate Kim Ross intends to introduce legislation substantially similar to HB 190/SB 1069 in the upcoming 2027 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore County Council believes it is now the appropriate time for the General Assembly to adopt PTSD occupational disease presumptions for First Responders Workers Compensation; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Council encourages the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation during the 2027 Legislative Session providing for PTSD occupational disease presumptions for First Responders Workers Compensation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Maryland; the Baltimore County delegation to the Maryland General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage by the County Council.