

Amendment to HB 1705-FN

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 AN ACT establishing an employee assistance program for small town and volunteer first
4 responders.

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6 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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8 1 New Sections; State-Funded Employee Assistance Program for Small Communities;
9 Establishment of Fund. Amend RSA 281-A by inserting after section 17-f the following new sections:

10 281-A:17-g First Responders Support Fund. There is established a first responders support
11 fund, which shall be administered by the department of health and human services. This fund shall
12 be used for costs incurred to enroll and administer volunteer first responders and full-time first
13 responders from towns with 5 or fewer full-time, paid first responders into the state-provided
14 employee assistance program (EAP). All fees, monetary grants, gifts, donations, or interest
15 generated by these funds shall be deposited with the state treasurer in a special nonlapsing fund to
16 be known as the first responders support fund and shall be continually appropriated to the
17 department for the administration of this section.

18 281-A:17-h Eligibility and Enrollment.

19 I. Volunteer first responders and full-time first responders from towns with 5 or fewer full-
20 time, paid first responders shall be eligible for the employee assistance program for small
21 communities.

22 II. The department of health and human services shall ensure that these first responders
23 are enrolled in the state-provided employee assistance program (EAP), which offers comprehensive
24 support services, including those for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and post-traumatic
25 stress (PTS).

26 III. The department of health and human services shall develop and implement guidelines
27 for the administration of the fund, including the process for enrollment and provision of services.

28 IV. The department shall submit an annual report to the legislature detailing the usage of
29 the fund, the number of first responders served, and the outcomes of the program.

30 2 New Subparagraph; New Funding. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph
31 (410) the following new subparagraph:

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1 (411) Moneys deposited in the first responders support fund as established in RSA
2 281-A:17-g.
3 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

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2026-1202h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a fund to cover the costs of enrolling and supporting first responders from small communities into the state-provided employee assistance program (EAP) and outlines eligibility, enrollment, and reporting requirements for the department of health and human services.