AN ACT

Amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), entitled "An act defining the liability of an employer to pay damages for injuries received by an employee in the course of employment; establishing an elective schedule of compensation; providing procedure for the determination of liability and compensation thereunder; and prescribing penalties," in interpretation and definitions, further providing for the definition of "occupational disease"; and, in liability and compensation, further providing for compensation for post-traumatic stress injury.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 108 of the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, is amended by adding a clause to read:

Section 108. The term "occupational disease," as used in this act, shall mean only the following diseases.

* * *

(s) Post-traumatic stress injury, which is suffered by a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical services
provider and caused by exposure to a traumatic event arising in
the course of the provider's employment or, after four years or
more of service, is caused by and related to the cumulative
effect of psychological stress in the course of the provider's
employment for the benefit and safety of the public.

Section 2. Section 301 of the act is amended by adding a
subsection to read:

Section 301. * * *

(g) A post-traumatic stress injury to an individual employed
as a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical services
provider, which is not precipitated by a physical injury, shall
be established by substantial competent evidence that the injury
was received while in the course of the individual's employment.

Section 3. The addition of sections 108(s) and 301(g) of the
act shall apply to claims filed on or after the effective date
of this section.

Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.