A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT AMENDING THE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION LAW TO PROVIDE
OCcupational Disease Coverage FOR FIRST Responders And Health
Care workers who Contract Coronavirus.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

“§ 97-53. Occupational diseases enumerated; when due to exposure to chemicals and
conditions enumerated.

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

…

(30) Coronavirus infection contracted by a covered person. – The following rules
apply in determining eligibility for compensation under this subdivision:

a. The term "covered person," as used in this subdivision means (i) a law
enforcement officer, jailer, prison guard, firefighter, emergency
medical technician, or paramedic employed by a State or local
government, including a volunteer firefighter meeting the requirement
of G.S. 58-84-5(3a) or (ii) a health care worker.

b. The term "coronavirus" as used in this subdivision has the same
meaning as defined in section 506 of the Coronavirus Preparedness
and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020, Public Law
No. 116-123.

c. A coronavirus infection contracted by a covered person shall be
presumed to be due to exposure in the course of the covered person’s
employment. The presumption may only be rebutted by clear and
convincing evidence."

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