

HOUSE BILL 720

By Faison

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7,
Chapter 51, Part 2, relative to presumptive
disability in acquiring certain infectious diseases in
the line of duty by emergency rescue workers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-209(a)(1)(B), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(B) For purposes of potential transmission of infectious diseases, "body fluids" includes salivary and sinus fluids, including droplets, sputum, and saliva, mucous and other fluids through which infectious airborne or blood-borne organisms can be transmitted between persons;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-209(a)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(4) "Infectious disease" means human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and hepatitis C virus (HCV); and

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-209(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "human immunodeficiency virus" wherever it appears and by substituting instead the language "infectious disease".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-209(e), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(e) An emergency rescue worker shall file an incident or accident report with the emergency rescue worker's employer of each instance of known or suspected occupational exposure to infectious disease as such is defined in subsection (a) within sixty (60) days. The employer shall maintain a record of the incident or accident report

so filed. The employing agency shall maintain a record of any known or reasonably suspected exposure of an emergency rescue worker in its employ to an infectious disease and shall immediately notify the employee of such exposure.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-209(f)(2), is amended by deleting the language "July 1, 2012" and by inserting instead the language "the effective date of this act".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-209(h), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(h) This section shall apply to any emergency rescue worker following termination of service for a period of three (3) months for each full year of service not to exceed sixty (60) months commencing with the last actual date of service.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.