LC 9 2020 2nd Special Session 8/5/20 (TSB/ps)

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Adds exposure to or infection by SARS-CoV-2 to definition of occupational disease for purposes of workers' compensation. Specifies presumptions as to compensability for occupational disease or occupational injury that apply to subject worker's death, disability, impairment of health, loss of work time and expenses of medical treatment or services, including diagnostic or preventive medical treatment or services, as result of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19.

Sunsets provisions on 180th day following expiration or termination of Governor's declaration of emergency concerning COVID-19 pandemic, including any extension of declaration.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT

- 2 Relating to the compensability of COVID-19 for the purposes of workers'
- 3 compensation; creating new provisions; amending ORS 656.802; and de-
- 4 claring an emergency.

- 5 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:
- 6 <u>SECTION 1.</u> Section 2 of this 2020 second special session Act is 7 added to and made a part of ORS chapter 656.
- 8 SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:
- 9 (a) "Essential worker" means a subject worker who:
- 10 (A) At an employer's direction, must or may work at the subject
- 11 worker's regular or temporarily assigned work site, other than the
- 12 subject worker's residence, during a period in which a declaration of
- a state of emergency issued by the Governor is in effect for a location
- 14 that includes the subject worker's work site; and
 - (B) Works in one of the following occupations:

- 1 (i) Public safety personnel, as defined in ORS 181A.355;
- 2 (ii) Peace officer, as defined in ORS 133.005;
- 3 (iii) Medical services provider, including emergency medical tech-
- 4 nician, physician, nurse, physician assistant, nursing assistant, em-
- 5 ployee of a hospital or medical clinic, pharmacy technician or
- 6 employee of a home health care or long term care facility;
- 7 (iv) Employee of a retail store, including a grocery store;
- 8 (v) Employee of a public, private or charter school;
- 9 (vi) Employee of a child care facility, who cares for the dependent 10 of another essential worker;
- (vii) Agricultural worker, as defined in ORS 315.163;
- 12 (viii) Janitorial worker who provides services in locations, buildings
- 13 or facilities that operate in compliance with the provisions of the
- 14 March 8, 2020, declaration of emergency by the Governor, and any ex-
- 15 tensions to the declaration of emergency; or
- 16 (ix) Another occupation, if:
- 17 (I) More than 10 employees work at the subject worker's work site
- and 10 percent or more of the employees at the work site have tested
- 19 positive or presumptively positive for exposure to severe acute respir-
- 20 atory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) or for coronavirus disease
- 21 **2019 (COVID-19); or**
- 22 (II) Not more than 10 employees work at the subject worker's work
- 23 site and two or more of the employees at the work site have tested
- 24 positive or presumptively positive for exposure to SARS-CoV-2 or for
- 25 **COVID-19.**
- 26 (b) "Occupational disease" has the meaning given that term in ORS
- 27 **656.802.**

- 28 (c) "Occupational injury" means a compensable injury that results
- 29 from exposure to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 arising out of and in the
- 30 course of employment.
 - (2) A subject worker's death, disability, impairment of health, loss

- of work time or expenses of medical treatment or services, including diagnostic or preventive medical treatment or services, are presumed to be compensable as an occupational disease or occupational injury
- 4 if the subject worker is an essential worker and:
- 5 (a) Was exposed at work to a known or suspected source of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 and the employer, a medical provider or a federal, state or local public health authority required the subject worker to remain away from the subject worker's work site;
- 9 (b) Was exposed at work to a known or suspected source of 10 SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 and becomes symptomatic for COVID-19;
- 11 (c) Becomes symptomatic for COVID-19 and receives a diagnosis of 12 COVID-19 from a medical provider or a federal, state or local public 13 health authority;
- 14 (d) Received a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 or in-15 fection by SARS-CoV-2; or
- 16 (e) Received a presumptive positive test result for COVID-19 or in-17 fection by SARS-CoV-2.
- (3) An insurer or self-insured employer may rebut the presumption set forth in subsection (2) of this section, or may deny a claim filed under this section for exposure to or infection by SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, only with clear and convincing evidence that:
- 22 (a) The conditions identified in subsection (2)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e)
 23 of this section do not apply to the subject worker; or
- (b) A known and confirmed source of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 unrelated to the subject worker's work as an essential worker caused the subject worker to have a condition identified in subsection (2)(c), (d) or (e) of this section.
- 28 (4) Notwithstanding ORS 656.027 (6), a city that provides a disability 29 or retirement system for firefighters and police officers by ordinance 30 or charter that is not subject to this chapter, when accepting and 31 processing claims from firefighters and police officers covered by the

- 1 disability or retirement system, shall apply:
 - (a) The provisions of this section; and
- 3 (b) For claims filed under this section for exposure to or infection
- 4 by SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, the time limitations for filing claims
- 5 that are set forth in ORS 656.807 (1) and (2).
- 6 **SECTION 3.** ORS 656.802 is amended to read:
- 7 656.802. (1)(a) As used in this chapter, "occupational disease" means any
- 8 disease or infection arising out of and in the course of employment caused
- 9 by substances or activities to which an employee is not ordinarily subjected
- 10 or exposed other than during a period of regular actual employment therein,
- 11 and which requires medical services or results in disability or death, in-
- 12 cluding:

- 13 (A) Any disease or infection caused by ingestion of, absorption of,
- 14 inhalation of or contact with dust, fumes, vapors, gases, radiation or other
- 15 substances.
- 16 (B) Any mental disorder, whether sudden or gradual in onset, which re-
- 17 quires medical services or results in physical or mental disability or death.
- 18 (C) Any series of traumatic events or occurrences which requires medical
- 19 services or results in physical disability or death.
- 20 **(D)** Exposure to or infection by severe acute respiratory syndrome
- 21 coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).
- 22 (b) As used in this chapter, "mental disorder" includes any physical dis-
- 23 order caused or worsened by mental stress.
- 24 (2)(a) The worker must prove that employment conditions were the major
- 25 contributing cause of the disease.
- 26 (b) If the occupational disease claim is based on the worsening of a pre-
- 27 existing disease or condition pursuant to ORS 656.005 (7), the worker must
- 28 prove that employment conditions were the major contributing cause of the
- 29 combined condition and pathological worsening of the disease.
- 30 (c) Occupational diseases shall be subject to all of the same limitations
- and exclusions as accidental injuries under ORS 656.005 (7).

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- 1 (d) Existence of an occupational disease or worsening of a preexisting 2 disease must be established by medical evidence supported by objective 3 findings.
 - (e) Preexisting conditions shall be deemed causes in determining major contributing cause under this section.
- 6 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a mental disorder 7 is not compensable under this chapter unless the worker establishes all of 8 the following:
- 9 (a) The employment conditions producing the mental disorder exist in a 10 real and objective sense.
 - (b) The employment conditions producing the mental disorder are conditions other than conditions generally inherent in every working situation or reasonable disciplinary, corrective or job performance evaluation actions by the employer, or cessation of employment or employment decisions attendant upon ordinary business or financial cycles.
- 16 (c) There is a diagnosis of a mental or emotional disorder which is gen-17 erally recognized in the medical or psychological community.
- 18 (d) There is clear and convincing evidence that the mental disorder arose 19 out of and in the course of employment.
- (4) Death, disability or impairment of health of firefighters of any poli-20 tical division who have completed five or more years of employment as fire-21fighters, caused by any disease of the lungs or respiratory tract, hypertension 22 or cardiovascular-renal disease, and resulting from their employment as 23 firefighters is an "occupational disease." Any condition or impairment of 24 health arising under this subsection shall be presumed to result from a 25 firefighter's employment. However, any such firefighter must have taken a 26 physical examination upon becoming a firefighter, or subsequently thereto, 27 which failed to reveal any evidence of such condition or impairment of 28 health which preexisted employment. Denial of a claim for any condition 29 or impairment of health arising under this subsection must be on the basis 30 of clear and convincing medical evidence that the cause of the condition or 31

- 1 impairment is unrelated to the firefighter's employment.
- 2 (5)(a) Death, disability or impairment of health of a nonvolunteer fire-
- 3 fighter employed by a political division or subdivision who has completed
- 4 five or more years of employment as a nonvolunteer firefighter is an occu-
- 5 pational disease if the death, disability or impairment of health:
- 6 (A) Is caused by brain cancer, colon cancer, stomach cancer, testicular
- 7 cancer, prostate cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, cancer
- 8 of the throat or mouth, rectal cancer, breast cancer or leukemia;
- 9 (B) Results from the firefighter's employment as a nonvolunteer fire-10 fighter; and
- 11 (C) Is first diagnosed by a physician after July 1, 2009.
- 12 (b) Any condition or impairment of health arising under this subsection
- is presumed to result from the firefighter's employment. Denial of a claim for
- 14 any condition or impairment of health arising under this subsection must be
- on the basis of clear and convincing medical evidence that the condition or
- 16 impairment was not caused or contributed to in material part by the
- 17 firefighter's employment.
- (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this subsection, the presumption es-
- 19 tablished under paragraph (b) of this subsection may be rebutted by clear and
- 20 convincing evidence that the use of tobacco by the nonvolunteer firefighter
- 21 is the major contributing cause of the cancer.
- 22 (d) The presumption established under paragraph (b) of this subsection
- 23 does not apply to prostate cancer if the cancer is first diagnosed by a phy-
- 24 sician after the firefighter has reached the age of 55. However, nothing in
- 25 this paragraph affects the right of a firefighter to establish the
- 26 compensability of prostate cancer without benefit of the presumption.
- (e) The presumption established under paragraph (b) of this subsection
- 28 does not apply to claims filed more than 84 months following the termination
- 29 of the nonvolunteer firefighter's employment as a nonvolunteer firefighter.
- 30 However, nothing in this paragraph affects the right of a firefighter to es-
- tablish the compensability of the cancer without benefit of the presumption.

- 1 (f) The presumption established under paragraph (b) of this subsection 2 does not apply to volunteer firefighters.
- 3 (g) Nothing in this subsection affects the provisions of subsection (4) of 4 this section.
- (h) For purposes of this subsection, "nonvolunteer firefighter" means a firefighter who performs firefighting services and receives salary, hourly wages equal to or greater than the state minimum wage, or other compen-
- 8 sation except for room, board, lodging, housing, meals, stipends, reimburse-
- 9 ment for expenses or nominal payments for time and travel, regardless of
- 10 whether any such compensation is subject to federal, state or local taxation.
- 11 "Nominal payments for time and travel" includes, but is not limited to,
- 12 payments for on-call time or time spent responding to a call or similar non-
- 13 cash benefits.
- 14 (6) Notwithstanding ORS 656.027 (6), any city providing a disability and 15 retirement system by ordinance or charter for firefighters and police officers 16 not subject to this chapter shall apply the presumptions established under 17 subsection (5) of this section when processing claims for firefighters covered 18 by the system.
- (7)(a) As used in this subsection:
- 20 (A) "Acute stress disorder" has the meaning given that term in the 21 DSM-5.
- 22 (B) "Covered employee" means an individual who, on the date a claim is 23 filed under this chapter:
- 24 (i) Was employed for at least five years by, or experienced a single trau-25 matic event that satisfies the criteria set forth in the DSM-5 as Criterion A
- 26 for diagnosing post-traumatic stress disorder while employed by, the state,
- 27 a political subdivision of the state, a special government body, as defined in
- ORS 174.117, or a public agency in any of these occupations:
- 29 (I) A full-time paid firefighter;
- 30 (II) A full-time paid emergency medical services provider;
- 31 (III) A full-time paid police officer;

- 1 (IV) A full-time paid corrections officer or youth correction officer;
- 2 (V) A full-time paid parole and probation officer; or
- 3 (VI) A full-time paid emergency dispatcher or 9-1-1 emergency operator; 4 and
- (ii) Remains employed in an occupation listed in sub-subparagraph (i) of this subparagraph or separated from employment in the occupation not more than seven years previously.
- 8 (C) "DSM-5" means the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical 9 Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Associ-10 ation.
- 11 (D) "Post-traumatic stress disorder" has the meaning given that term in 12 the DSM-5.
- 13 (E) "Psychiatrist" means a psychiatrist whom the Oregon Medical Board 14 has licensed and certified as eligible to diagnose the conditions described in 15 this subsection.
- 16 (F) "Psychologist" means a licensed psychologist, as defined in ORS 17 675.010, whom the Oregon Board of Psychology has certified as eligible to 18 diagnose the conditions described in this subsection.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3) of this section, if a covered 19 employee establishes through a preponderance of persuasive medical evidence 20 from a psychiatrist or psychologist that the covered employee has more 21 likely than not satisfied the diagnostic criteria in the DSM-5 for post-22 traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder, any resulting death, disa-23 bility or impairment of health of the covered employee shall be presumed to 24 be compensable as an occupational disease. An insurer or self-insured em-25 ployer may rebut the presumption only by establishing through clear and 26 convincing medical evidence that duties as a covered employee were not of 27 real importance or great consequence in causing the diagnosed condition. 28
- (c) An insurer's or self-insured employer's acceptance of a claim of posttraumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder under this subsection, whether the acceptance was voluntary or was a result of a judgment or or-

- 1 der, does not preclude the insurer or the self-insured employer from later
- 2 denying the current compensability of the claim if exposure as a covered
- 3 employee to trauma that meets the diagnostic criteria set forth as Criterion
- 4 A in the DSM-5 for post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder
- 5 ceases being of real importance or great consequence in causing the disabil-
- 6 ity, impairment of health or a need for treatment.
- 7 (d) An insurer or self-insured employer may deny a claim under paragraph
- 8 (c) of this subsection only on the basis of clear and convincing medical evi-
- 9 dence.
- 10 (e) Notwithstanding ORS 656.027 (6), a city that provides a disability or
- 11 retirement system for firefighters and police officers by ordinance or charter
- 12 that is not subject to this chapter, when accepting and processing claims for
- 13 death, disability or impairment of health from firefighters and police officers
- 14 covered by the disability or retirement system, shall apply:
- 15 (A) The provisions of this subsection; and
- 16 (B) For claims filed under this subsection, the time limitations for filing
- 17 claims that are set forth in ORS 656.807 (1) and (2).
- SECTION 4. ORS 656.802, as amended by section 3 of this 2020 second
- 19 special session Act, is amended to read:
- 20 656.802. (1)(a) As used in this chapter, "occupational disease" means any
- 21 disease or infection arising out of and in the course of employment caused
- 22 by substances or activities to which an employee is not ordinarily subjected
- 23 or exposed other than during a period of regular actual employment therein,
- 24 and which requires medical services or results in disability or death, in-
- 25 cluding:
- 26 (A) Any disease or infection caused by ingestion of, absorption of,
- 27 inhalation of or contact with dust, fumes, vapors, gases, radiation or other
- 28 substances.
- 29 (B) Any mental disorder, whether sudden or gradual in onset, which re-
- 30 quires medical services or results in physical or mental disability or death.
- 31 (C) Any series of traumatic events or occurrences which requires medical

- 1 services or results in physical disability or death.
- 2 [(D) Exposure to or infection by severe acute respiratory syndrome 3 coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).]
- 4 (b) As used in this chapter, "mental disorder" includes any physical dis-5 order caused or worsened by mental stress.
- 6 (2)(a) The worker must prove that employment conditions were the major contributing cause of the disease.
- 8 (b) If the occupational disease claim is based on the worsening of a pre-9 existing disease or condition pursuant to ORS 656.005 (7), the worker must 10 prove that employment conditions were the major contributing cause of the 11 combined condition and pathological worsening of the disease.
- 12 (c) Occupational diseases shall be subject to all of the same limitations 13 and exclusions as accidental injuries under ORS 656.005 (7).
- (d) Existence of an occupational disease or worsening of a preexisting disease must be established by medical evidence supported by objective findings.
- 17 (e) Preexisting conditions shall be deemed causes in determining major 18 contributing cause under this section.
- 19 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a mental disorder 20 is not compensable under this chapter unless the worker establishes all of 21 the following:
- 22 (a) The employment conditions producing the mental disorder exist in a 23 real and objective sense.
- (b) The employment conditions producing the mental disorder are conditions other than conditions generally inherent in every working situation or reasonable disciplinary, corrective or job performance evaluation actions by the employer, or cessation of employment or employment decisions attendant upon ordinary business or financial cycles.
- (c) There is a diagnosis of a mental or emotional disorder which is generally recognized in the medical or psychological community.
 - (d) There is clear and convincing evidence that the mental disorder arose

1 out of and in the course of employment.

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- (4) Death, disability or impairment of health of firefighters of any poli-2 tical division who have completed five or more years of employment as fire-3 fighters, caused by any disease of the lungs or respiratory tract, hypertension or cardiovascular-renal disease, and resulting from their employment as 5 firefighters is an "occupational disease." Any condition or impairment of 6 health arising under this subsection shall be presumed to result from a 7 firefighter's employment. However, any such firefighter must have taken a 8 physical examination upon becoming a firefighter, or subsequently thereto, 9 which failed to reveal any evidence of such condition or impairment of 10 health which preexisted employment. Denial of a claim for any condition 11 12 or impairment of health arising under this subsection must be on the basis of clear and convincing medical evidence that the cause of the condition or 13
- (5)(a) Death, disability or impairment of health of a nonvolunteer firefighter employed by a political division or subdivision who has completed five or more years of employment as a nonvolunteer firefighter is an occupational disease if the death, disability or impairment of health:
- (A) Is caused by brain cancer, colon cancer, stomach cancer, testicular cancer, prostate cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, cancer of the throat or mouth, rectal cancer, breast cancer or leukemia;
- 22 (B) Results from the firefighter's employment as a nonvolunteer fire-23 fighter; and
- 24 (C) Is first diagnosed by a physician after July 1, 2009.

impairment is unrelated to the firefighter's employment.

- (b) Any condition or impairment of health arising under this subsection is presumed to result from the firefighter's employment. Denial of a claim for any condition or impairment of health arising under this subsection must be on the basis of clear and convincing medical evidence that the condition or impairment was not caused or contributed to in material part by the firefighter's employment.
 - (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this subsection, the presumption es-

- tablished under paragraph (b) of this subsection may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence that the use of tobacco by the nonvolunteer firefighter is the major contributing cause of the cancer.
- (d) The presumption established under paragraph (b) of this subsection does not apply to prostate cancer if the cancer is first diagnosed by a physician after the firefighter has reached the age of 55. However, nothing in this paragraph affects the right of a firefighter to establish the compensability of prostate cancer without benefit of the presumption.
- 9 (e) The presumption established under paragraph (b) of this subsection 10 does not apply to claims filed more than 84 months following the termination 11 of the nonvolunteer firefighter's employment as a nonvolunteer firefighter. 12 However, nothing in this paragraph affects the right of a firefighter to es-13 tablish the compensability of the cancer without benefit of the presumption.
- 14 (f) The presumption established under paragraph (b) of this subsection 15 does not apply to volunteer firefighters.
- 16 (g) Nothing in this subsection affects the provisions of subsection (4) of 17 this section.
- (h) For purposes of this subsection, "nonvolunteer firefighter" means a 18 firefighter who performs firefighting services and receives salary, hourly 19 wages equal to or greater than the state minimum wage, or other compen-20 sation except for room, board, lodging, housing, meals, stipends, reimburse-21 ment for expenses or nominal payments for time and travel, regardless of 22 whether any such compensation is subject to federal, state or local taxation. 23 "Nominal payments for time and travel" includes, but is not limited to, 24 payments for on-call time or time spent responding to a call or similar non-25 cash benefits. 26
 - (6) Notwithstanding ORS 656.027 (6), any city providing a disability and retirement system by ordinance or charter for firefighters and police officers not subject to this chapter shall apply the presumptions established under subsection (5) of this section when processing claims for firefighters covered by the system.

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- (7)(a) As used in this subsection:
- 2 (A) "Acute stress disorder" has the meaning given that term in the 3 DSM-5.
- 4 (B) "Covered employee" means an individual who, on the date a claim is 5 filed under this chapter:
- 6 (i) Was employed for at least five years by, or experienced a single trau-
- 7 matic event that satisfies the criteria set forth in the DSM-5 as Criterion A
- 8 for diagnosing post-traumatic stress disorder while employed by, the state,
- 9 a political subdivision of the state, a special government body, as defined in
- 10 ORS 174.117, or a public agency in any of these occupations:
- 11 (I) A full-time paid firefighter;
- 12 (II) A full-time paid emergency medical services provider;
- 13 (III) A full-time paid police officer;
- 14 (IV) A full-time paid corrections officer or youth correction officer;
- 15 (V) A full-time paid parole and probation officer; or
- (VI) A full-time paid emergency dispatcher or 9-1-1 emergency operator;
- 17 and
- (ii) Remains employed in an occupation listed in sub-subparagraph (i) of
- 19 this subparagraph or separated from employment in the occupation not more
- 20 than seven years previously.
- 21 (C) "DSM-5" means the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical
- 22 Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Associ-
- 23 ation.
- (D) "Post-traumatic stress disorder" has the meaning given that term in
- 25 the DSM-5.
- 26 (E) "Psychiatrist" means a psychiatrist whom the Oregon Medical Board
- 27 has licensed and certified as eligible to diagnose the conditions described in
- 28 this subsection.
- 29 (F) "Psychologist" means a licensed psychologist, as defined in ORS
- 30 675.010, whom the Oregon Board of Psychology has certified as eligible to
- 31 diagnose the conditions described in this subsection.

- (b) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3) of this section, if a covered employee establishes through a preponderance of persuasive medical evidence from a psychiatrist or psychologist that the covered employee has more likely than not satisfied the diagnostic criteria in the DSM-5 for post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder, any resulting death, disability or impairment of health of the covered employee shall be presumed to be compensable as an occupational disease. An insurer or self-insured employer may rebut the presumption only by establishing through clear and convincing medical evidence that duties as a covered employee were not of real importance or great consequence in causing the diagnosed condition.
- (c) An insurer's or self-insured employer's acceptance of a claim of post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder under this subsection, whether the acceptance was voluntary or was a result of a judgment or order, does not preclude the insurer or the self-insured employer from later denying the current compensability of the claim if exposure as a covered employee to trauma that meets the diagnostic criteria set forth as Criterion A in the DSM-5 for post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder ceases being of real importance or great consequence in causing the disability, impairment of health or a need for treatment.
- 20 (d) An insurer or self-insured employer may deny a claim under paragraph 21 (c) of this subsection only on the basis of clear and convincing medical evi-22 dence.
- (e) Notwithstanding ORS 656.027 (6), a city that provides a disability or retirement system for firefighters and police officers by ordinance or charter that is not subject to this chapter, when accepting and processing claims for death, disability or impairment of health from firefighters and police officers covered by the disability or retirement system, shall apply:
 - (A) The provisions of this subsection; and
- 29 (B) For claims filed under this subsection, the time limitations for filing 30 claims that are set forth in ORS 656.807 (1) and (2).

SECTION 5. Section 2 of this 2020 second special session Act and the

amendments to ORS 656.802 by section 3 of this 2020 second special session Act apply to claims for occupational disease or occupational injury that are submitted on and after the effective date of this 2020 second special session Act and to claims for occupational disease or occupational injury that were submitted and were pending but for which compensability was not yet determined before the effective date of this 2020 second special session Act.

SECTION 6. The amendments to ORS 656.802 by section 4 of this 2020 second special session Act become operative on the 180th day following the expiration or termination of the Governor's March 8, 2020, declaration of emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. For purposes of this section, the period in which the declaration of emergency is in effect includes any extensions of the declaration of emergency.

SECTION 7. Section 2 of this 2020 second special session Act is repealed on the 180th day following the expiration or termination of the Governor's March 8, 2020, declaration of emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. For purposes of this section, the period in which the declaration of emergency is in effect includes any extensions of the declaration of emergency.

SECTION 8. This 2020 second special session Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2020 second special session Act takes effect on its passage.