

By Senator Bennett

21-01258A-09

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to first-responder services; creating
 3 ss. 125.01045 and 166.0446, F.S.; prohibiting counties
 4 and municipalities from imposing taxes, charging fees,
 5 or seeking reimbursement for costs relating to certain
 6 first-responder services; providing an exception;
 7 defining the term "first responder"; providing an
 8 effective date.

10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

12 Section 1. Section 125.01045, Florida Statutes, is created
 13 to read:

14 125.01045 Prohibition of fees for first-responder
 15 services.-

16 (1) A county may not impose a tax, charge a fee, or seek
 17 reimbursement for any costs or expenses that may be incurred for
 18 services provided by a first responder, including costs or
 19 expenses related to personnel, supplies, motor vehicles, or
 20 equipment in response to a motor vehicle accident, fire, or
 21 other emergency, except when services provided to an insured are
 22 expressly covered by an insurance company and:

23 (a) The insured is lawfully billed for the services or
 24 assigns the right to collect to the service provider; or

25 (b) Services provided to the insured are expressly
 26 authorized by state or federal law to be billed directly to an
 27 insurance company.

28 (2) As used in this section, the term "first responder"
 29 means a law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10, a

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30 firefighter as defined in s. 633.30, or an emergency medical
31 technician or paramedic as defined in s. 401.23 who is employed
32 by state or local government. A volunteer law enforcement
33 officer, firefighter, or emergency medical technician or
34 paramedic engaged by the state or a local government is also
35 considered a first responder of the state or local government
36 for purposes of this section.

37 Section 2. Section 166.0446, Florida Statutes, is created
38 to read:

39 166.0446 Prohibition of fees for first-responder services.-

40 (1) A municipality may not impose a tax, charge a fee, or
41 seek reimbursement for any costs or expenses that may be
42 incurred for services provided by a first responder, including
43 costs or expenses related to personnel, supplies, motor
44 vehicles, or equipment in response to a motor vehicle accident,
45 fire, or other emergency, except when services provided to an
46 insured are expressly covered by an insurance company and:

47 (a) The insured is lawfully billed for the services or
48 assigns the right to collect to the service provider; or

49 (b) The services provided to the insured are expressly
50 authorized by state or federal law to be billed directly to an
51 insurance company.

52 (2) As used in this section, the term "first responder"
53 means a law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10, a
54 firefighter as defined in s. 633.30, or an emergency medical
55 technician or paramedic as defined in s. 401.23 who is employed
56 by state or local government. A volunteer law enforcement
57 officer, firefighter, or emergency medical technician or
58 paramedic engaged by the state or a local government is also

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59 considered a first responder of the state or local government
60 for purposes of this section.

61 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.