

Wellness, Fitness and Stress Management: Responding to the “Heart and Lung Bill”

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In 2003, The Florida Legislature passed the “The Heart and Lung” bill which enacted the presumption that if a law enforcement officer develops any cardiovascular disease, or tuberculosis, during their employment, that disease is a result of their employment, providing that they were free of the ailment prior to employment, and therefore are entitled to Workman’s Compensation benefits. This paper will examine the causation of cardiovascular disease as it relates to the law enforcement profession, discuss the potential financial impact of the bill, and explore what agencies in the state of Florida and California have done to combat the disease for their employees.