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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RELIEF OF INJURED AND DECEASED FIRE
FIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Raptakis, and LaMountain

Date Introduced: March 14, 2025

Referred To: Senate Labor & Gaming

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 45-19-16.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 45-19 entitled "Relief of
2 Injured and Deceased Fire Fighters and Police Officers" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **45-19-16.1. Presumption for heart disease and hypertension.**

4 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, any
5 firefighter [or police officer](#), as defined in § 45-19-1, who is unable to perform the duties required
6 thereof because of an impairment of health caused by heart disease, stroke, or hypertension is
7 presumed to have suffered an in-the-line-of duty injury/disability, unless the contrary can be proven
8 by clear and convincing evidence; and the firefighter [or police officer](#) shall be entitled to all benefits
9 provided for in chapters 19, 21, 21.2, and 21.3 of this title.

10 (b) This presumption shall not apply to firefighters [or police officers](#) hired after July 1,
11 ~~2023~~ [2025](#), in the following situations:

12 (1) If a physical examination was conducted at the time the firefighter [or police officer](#) was
13 hired and the examination revealed that person was suffering from heart disease or hypertension.

14 (2) If the firefighter [or police officer](#) had regularly or habitually used tobacco products
15 during the five (5) years prior to any diagnosis of heart disease or hypertension or suffering a stroke.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- RELIEF OF INJURED AND DECEASED FIRE
FIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS

1 This act would add police officers to fire fighters who are unable to perform their duties as
2 a result of heart disease, stroke or hypertension, to be presumed to have suffered an in-the-line-of-
3 duty disability, unless the police officer was hired after July 1, 2025, and there is clear and
4 convincing evidence that the police officer suffered the condition at the time of hire or regularly
5 used tobacco products for the five (5) years prior to a diagnosis.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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