

2020 -- H 7449

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- CANCER BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Introduced By: Representatives Morin, O'Brien, Casimiro, Amore, and Vella-Wilkinson

Date Introduced: February 05, 2020

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 45-19.1 of the General Laws entitled "Cancer Benefits For Fire
2 Fighters" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **45-19.1-4. Conclusive presumption.**

4 (a) Any type of cancer found in a firefighter is conclusively presumed to be an
5 occupational cancer as that term is defined in § 45-19-2.

6 (b) This conclusive presumption shall not apply to firefighters hired after the effective
7 date of this section in the following situations:

8 (1) If a physical examination was conducted at the time the firefighter was hired and such
9 examination revealed that person had cancer; or

10 (2) If the firefighter has completed less than two (2) years of employment in their fire
11 department; or

12 (3) To any firefighter if the firefighter has regularly or habitually used tobacco products
13 during the five (5) years prior to any diagnosis of cancer.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall be given retroactive as well
15 as prospective effect and shall apply to all cancer-related illnesses, injuries and disability claims
16 pending upon the effective date of this act.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- CANCER BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

1 This act would clarify a presumption applying to firefighters, that if any type of cancer is
2 found in a firefighter, with three (3) exceptions, then it would be conclusively presumed to be an
3 occupational cancer arising out of their employment as firefighters.

4 This act would take effect upon passage and be given retroactive as well as prospective
5 effect and would apply to all cancer-related illnesses, injuries and disability claims pending upon
6 the effective date of this act.

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