

2025 -- H 5372

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, O'Brien, and Shanley

Date Introduced: February 07, 2025

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

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

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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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