

SENATE BILL NO. 131

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS HOLLAND, Gray-Jackson

Introduced: 4/28/21

Referred: Community & Regional Affairs, Labor & Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the presumption of compensability for a disability resulting from**
2 **certain diseases for firefighters."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 23.30.121(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) For a firefighter covered under AS 23.30.243,

6 (1) there is a presumption that a claim for compensation for disability
7 as a result of the following diseases is within the provisions of this chapter:

8 (A) respiratory disease;

9 (B) cardiovascular events that are experienced within 72 hours
10 after exposure to smoke, fumes, or toxic substances; and

11 (C) the following cancers:

12 (i) primary brain cancer;

13 (ii) malignant melanoma;

14 (iii) leukemia;

- (iv) non-Hodgkin's lymphoma;
- (v) bladder cancer;
- (vi) ureter cancer;
- (vii) kidney cancer; [AND]
- (viii) prostate cancer; **and**
- (ix) breast cancer;**

(2) notwithstanding AS 23.30.100(a), following termination of service, the presumption established in (1) of this subsection extends to the firefighter for a period of three calendar months for each year of requisite service but may not extend more than 60 calendar months following the last date of employment;

(3) the presumption established in (1) of this subsection applies only to an active or former firefighter who has a disease described in (1) of this subsection that develops or manifests itself after the firefighter has served in the state for at least seven years and who

(A) was given a qualifying medical examination upon becoming a firefighter that did not show evidence of the disease;

(B) was given an annual medical exam during each of the first seven years of employment that did not show evidence of the disease; and

(C) with regard to diseases described in (1)(C) of this subsection, demonstrates that, while in the course of employment as a firefighter, the firefighter was exposed to a known carcinogen, as defined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer or the National Toxicology Program, and the carcinogen is associated with a disabling cancer.

* **Sec. 2.** The uncoded law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. AS 23.30.121(b), as amended by this Act, applies to claims made on or after the effective date of this Act.