

**HOUSE BILL NO. 218**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER**

**Introduced: 1/16/24**

**Referred: Labor and Commerce**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to coverage for disability from diseases for certain firefighters; and**  
2 **providing for an effective date."**

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;
- (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 **three** [SEVEN] years and who

(A) was given a qualifying medical examination

**(i)** upon becoming **certified as** a firefighter that did not show evidence of the disease;

**(ii)** **upon the first employment as a firefighter that did not show evidence of the disease;**

**(iii)** **at least once every five** [(B) WAS GIVEN AN ANNUAL MEDICAL EXAM DURING EACH OF THE FIRST SEVEN] years of employment **as a firefighter; and**

**(iv)** **not later than one year after each termination of employment as a firefighter** [THAT DID NOT SHOW EVIDENCE OF THE DISEASE]; and

**(B)** [(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.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).