

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 538 (FINANCE)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/6/92
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES ELLIS, Donley, Finkelstein, Koponen, Gruenberg, B.Davis, Moyer, Bruckman, Foster

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to workers' compensation benefits for fire fighters; and providing for an
2 effective date."

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

4 * **Section 1. FINDINGS.** The legislature finds that fire fighters are

5 (1) required to work in conditions that result in exposure to smoke, fumes, and chemicals
6 that are carcinogenic, poisonous, or toxic;

7 (2) continually exposed to a vast and expanding field of hazardous substances;

8 (3) constantly entering uncontrolled environments to save lives and reduce property
9 damage;

10 (4) frequently not aware of the potential toxic and carcinogenic substances that they may
11 be exposed to;

12 (5) often exposed simultaneously to multiple carcinogens, unlike other workers;

13 (6) experiencing a rise in occupational heart disease, circulatory or respiratory problems,
14 and cancer related to the rapid proliferation of thousands of toxic substances;

1 (7) being exposed to agents that can result in the development of heart disease,
2 circulatory or respiratory problems, or cancer very slowly over a period of five to 40 years;

3 (8) experiencing heart disease, circulatory or respiratory problems, and cancer that arise
4 out of and in the course of employment.

5 * **Sec. 2.** AS 23.30.120 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 (d) In a proceeding under this chapter, a preliminary link between the employment and
7 the injury may not be required of a claimant before the presumption of compensability
8 established in (a) of this section applies if the injury consists of heart disease, circulatory disease,
9 respiratory disease, or cancer and the claimant was employed as a fire fighter for five or more
10 years before the onset of the disease. In this subsection, "cancer" means cancer of a type caused
11 by exposure to heat, radiation, or a known carcinogen, as defined by the International Agency
12 for Research on Cancer; and "fire fighter" includes a volunteer fire fighter.

13 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1992.