

HOUSE BILL NO. 149
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUDSON

Introduced: 2/11/93

Referred: State Affairs, Labor & Commerce, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to workers' compensation for a fire fighter and for a person
2 volunteering as a fire fighter; and providing for an 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
6 chemicals 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
9 property damage;

10 (4) frequently not aware of the potential toxic and carcinogenic substances that
11 they may 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
14 problems, 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
4 that arise 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
7 employment and the injury may not be required of a claimant before the presumption
8 of compensability established in (a) of this section applies if (1) the injury consists of
9 heart disease, circulatory disease, respiratory disease, or cancer; (2) the claimant was
10 employed as a fire fighter for 10 or more years before the onset of the disease; (3)
11 within 90 days after the claimant's first employment as a fire fighter, the claimant had
12 a physical examination and the examination revealed no evidence of heart disease,
13 circulatory disease, respiratory disease, or cancer; and (4) the claim is filed against an
14 employer who employs the claimant as a fire fighter. In this subsection, "cancer"
15 means cancer of a type caused by exposure to heat, radiation, or a known carcinogen,
16 as defined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer; and "fire fighter"
17 includes a volunteer fire fighter.

18 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1993.