

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 218(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/27/24

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER

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 **six** [SEVEN] years and who

(A) **underwent** [WAS GIVEN] a qualifying medical examination

(i) upon **the first employment as** [BECOMING] a firefighter that did not show evidence of the disease;

(ii) **at least once every two years** [(B) WAS GIVEN AN ANNUAL MEDICAL EXAM] during [EACH OF] the first **six** [SEVEN] years 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).