

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 3 - 2 - 0

**Yeas:** Johnson, Monnes Anderson, Brown

**Nays:** Ferrioli, Nelson

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Marjorie Taylor, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 5/16, 5/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Adds seven specified cancers to the existing firefighter presumption for employment caused occupational diseases for workers' compensation claims. Limits the presumption to full-time, fully compensated firefighters. Excludes jail and prison inmates from the presumption. Requires the presumption be made by cities that provide a separate disability and retirement system. Allows Administrative Law Judges employed by the Workers' Compensation Board to decide disputes in those cases.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Certain workers' compensation presumption and qualifications for presumption
- Recommendation from Management Labor Advisory Committee
- Coverage of paid firefighters and whether some volunteer firefighters are paid
- Scientific evidence related to risk firefighters have of coming down with specific cancers
- Coverage for City of Portland firefighters

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Limits the specified presumption to full-time, fully compensated firefighters. Excludes jail and prison inmates from the presumption. Identifies seven cancers to be defined as occupational diseases under certain circumstances (brain, colon, stomach, testicular, prostate, multiple myeloma, or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma).

**BACKGROUND:** Current workers' compensation law establishes a "presumption" for certain occupational diseases for firefighters, including diseases of the lungs, respiratory tract, hypertension or cardiovascular-renal disease. In order to qualify for the presumption, a firefighter must have completed five or more years of work and have also taken a physical examination upon employment. Once the presumption is established, the burden is on the employer to prove that the disease is not work related.