

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action: Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules

Vote: 4 - 1 - 0

Yeas: Avakian, Gordly, Monroe, Prozanski

Nays: Beyer

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Anna Braun, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/26, 4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds several types of cancers to the existing firefighter presumption for employment caused occupational diseases for workers' compensation. 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:

- Results of several studies
- Financial impact
- Approval by the Management- Labor Advisory Committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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.