



April 20, 2017

Firefighter Cancer Disability Presumption – Oppose SB 7030

SB 7030, a proposed committee bill, will be considered by the **Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee** on Monday, April 24 at 3:00 p.m.

Please contact Senators on this committee and urge them to OPPOSE SB 7030!

SB 7030 establishes a cancer disability presumption for firefighters. (The bill also makes various changes to the Florida Retirement System and the Florida League of Cities is not taking a position on these provisions.)

- **The Florida League of Cities OPPOSES the bill as being a significant unfunded state mandate.**
- The bill grandfathers in approximately 41,500 current firefighters from having to pass a physical examination, of which approximately 39,500 are employed by cities, counties and other local governmental entities.
- The bill will result in significant increases in expenses for local governments for workers' compensation and disability pension benefits.
- The bill provides that any condition or impairment of health of a firefighter caused by multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer or testicular cancer is presumed to be suffered in the line of duty, unless the contrary is shown by competent evidence.
- To be entitled to the presumption, a firefighter must meet certain minimum conditions, such as: being employed with current employer for at least five continuous years; not having used tobacco products for at least five years; and not having been employed during the preceding five years in any other position that has been proven to create a higher risk for a covered cancer. While these minimum conditions may limit the application of the bill to some firefighters, the practical effect may not be significant as most firefighters will meet these conditions prior to developing a specified cancer.

Background:

Current law treats all employees, including firefighters, the same relating to "occupational diseases," like cancer. That is, the employee must establish a connection between his or her job (such as being exposed to toxic substances or smoke) and a health condition related to

cancer, to be entitled to workers' compensation and disability pension benefits. Establishing a disability presumption that any health condition related to a specified cancer is presumed to be job related requires the governmental entity to prove that no aspect of the firefighter's job contributed to the health condition. This evidentiary standard is nearly impossible for a governmental entity to meet, and will result in significant increases in expenses for workers' compensation and disability pension benefits for firefighters.

Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee – Oppose SB 7030

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You can also use the League's [Contact Your Legislator](#) advocacy tool to e-mail your legislators.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kraig Conn at 850-701-3632, e-mail: kconn@flcities.com or Amber Hughes at 850-701-3621, e-mail ahughes@flcities.com.

Thank you for your advocacy efforts!