

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1884

To amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. TAKANO) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Federal Firefighters
5 Fairness Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. CERTAIN DISEASES PRESUMED TO BE WORK-RE-**
2 **LATED CAUSE OF DISABILITY OR DEATH FOR**
3 **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN FIRE PROTECTION**
4 **ACTIVITIES.**

5 (a) DEFINITION.—Section 8101 of title 5, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
8 (19);

9 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
10 graph (20) and inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(21) ‘employee in fire protection activities’
13 means a firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical
14 technician, rescue worker, ambulance personnel, or
15 hazardous material worker, who—

16 “(A) is trained in fire suppression;

17 “(B) has the legal authority and responsi-
18 bility to engage in fire suppression;

19 “(C) is engaged in the prevention, control,
20 and extinguishment of fires or response to
21 emergency situations where life, property, or
22 the environment is at risk; and

23 “(D) performs such activities as a primary
24 responsibility of his or her job.”.

25 (b) PRESUMPTION RELATING TO EMPLOYEES IN
26 FIRE PROTECTION ACTIVITIES.—Section 8102 of title 5,

1 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(c)(1) With regard to an employee in fire protection
4 activities, a disease specified in paragraph (3) shall be pre-
5 sumed to be proximately caused by the employment of
6 such employee, subject to the length of service require-
7 ments specified. The disability or death of an employee
8 in fire protection activities due to such a disease shall be
9 presumed to result from personal injury sustained while
10 in the performance of such employee’s duty. Such pre-
11 sumptions may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evi-
12 dence.

13 “(2) Such presumptions apply only if the employee
14 in fire protection activities is diagnosed with the disease
15 for which presumption is sought within 10 years of the
16 last active date of employment as an employee in fire pro-
17 tection activities.

18 “(3) The following diseases shall be presumed to be
19 proximately caused by the employment of the employee in
20 fire protection activities:

21 “(A) If the employee has been employed for a
22 minimum of 5 years in aggregate as an employee in
23 fire protection activities:

24 “(i) Heart disease.

25 “(ii) Lung disease.

1 “(iii) The following cancers:

2 “(I) Brain cancer.

3 “(II) Cancer of the blood or lymphatic
4 systems.

5 “(III) Leukemia.

6 “(IV) Lymphoma (except Hodgkin’s
7 disease).

8 “(V) Multiple myeloma.

9 “(VI) Bladder cancer.

10 “(VII) Kidney cancer.

11 “(VIII) Testicular cancer.

12 “(IX) Cancer of the digestive system.

13 “(X) Colon cancer.

14 “(XI) Liver cancer.

15 “(XII) Skin cancer.

16 “(XIII) Lung cancer.

17 “(iv) Any other cancer the contraction of
18 which the Secretary of Labor through regula-
19 tions determines to be related to the hazards to
20 which an employee in fire protection activities
21 may be subject.

22 “(B) Regardless of the length of time an em-
23 ployee in fire protection activities has been em-
24 ployed, any uncommon infectious disease, including
25 but not limited to tuberculosis, hepatitis A, B, or C,

1 the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and any
2 other uncommon infectious disease the contraction
3 of which the Secretary of Labor through regulations
4 determines to be related to the hazards to which an
5 employee in fire protection activities may be sub-
6 ject.”.

7 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date
8 of enactment of this Act, the National Institute of Occupa-
9 tional Safety and Health in the Centers for Disease Con-
10 trol and Prevention shall examine the implementation of
11 this Act and appropriate scientific and medical data re-
12 lated to the health risks associated with firefighting and
13 submit to Congress a report which shall include—

14 (1) an analysis of the injury claims made under
15 this Act;

16 (2) an analysis of the available research related
17 to the health risks associated with firefighting; and

18 (3) recommendations for any administrative or
19 legislative actions necessary to ensure that those dis-
20 eases most associated with firefighting are included
21 in the presumption created by this Act.

22 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
23 this section applies to an injury that is first diagnosed or

- 1 a death that occurs, on or after the date of enactment
- 2 of this Act.

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