



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Committee Bill No. 5871**

LCO No. 4541



Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:  
(LAB)

**AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE  
FOR CURRENT AND FORMER UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF PAID  
MUNICIPAL OR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 31-294j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) For the purpose of adjudication of claims for payment of benefits  
4 under the provisions of this chapter, [a uniformed member of a paid  
5 municipal or volunteer fire department,] a regular member of a paid  
6 municipal police department, a constable, as defined in section 31-294i,  
7 or a member of a volunteer ambulance service shall be eligible for such  
8 benefits for any disease arising out of and in the course of  
9 employment, including, but not limited to, hepatitis, meningococcal  
10 meningitis, tuberculosis, Kahler's Disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma,  
11 and prostate or testicular cancer that results in death or temporary or  
12 permanent total or partial disability.

13 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any provisions of the general statutes, for  
14 the purpose of adjudication of claims for payment of benefits under

15 the provisions of this chapter, a uniformed member of a paid  
16 municipal or volunteer fire department shall be eligible for such  
17 benefits for any disease arising out of and in the course of  
18 employment, including, but not limited to, hepatitis, meningococcal  
19 meningitis, tuberculosis, Kahler's Disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma,  
20 any condition of cancer affecting the brain, skin, skeletal system,  
21 digestive system, endocrine system, respiratory system, lymphatic  
22 system, reproductive system, urinary system or hematological system,  
23 and any disease of the lungs or respiratory system, that results in death  
24 or temporary or permanent total or partial disability. Such disease  
25 shall be presumed to have been suffered in the line of duty as a result  
26 of the inhalation, absorption or ingestion of noxious fumes or  
27 poisonous gases, unless the contrary be shown by a preponderance of  
28 the evidence, provided (1) such uniformed member successfully  
29 passed a physical examination upon entry into such service, or  
30 subsequent to entry, as the case may be, that failed to reveal any  
31 evidence of such disease, (2) such uniformed member has worked for  
32 not less than five years at a municipal or volunteer fire department at  
33 the time such disease is discovered, or should have been discovered,  
34 and (3) such disease is one that is known to result from exposure to  
35 heat, radiation or a known or suspected carcinogen as determined by  
36 the International Agency for Research on Cancer or the National  
37 Toxicology Program of the United States Department of Health and  
38 Human Services.

39 (2) Any individual who is no longer actively serving as a uniformed  
40 member of a paid municipal or volunteer fire department but who  
41 otherwise would be eligible for such benefits pursuant to the  
42 provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, may apply for such  
43 benefits not more than five years from the date such individual last  
44 served with such paid municipal or volunteer fire department.

45 (3) Any uniformed member of a paid municipal or volunteer fire  
46 department or individual applying for benefits pursuant to  
47 subdivisions (1) or (2) of this subsection may be required to submit to

48 annual physical examinations as a condition of receiving such benefits.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	31-294j

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide adequate workers' compensation for current and former uniformed members of a paid municipal or volunteer fire department who suffer from certain diseases as a result of performing their jobs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. COOK, 65th Dist.; REP. CONROY, 105th Dist.  
REP. ORANGE, 48th Dist.; REP. SAYERS, 60th Dist.  
REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.; REP. BERGER, 73rd Dist.  
REP. JOHNSON, 49th Dist.; REP. BACKER, 121st Dist.  
REP. BUTLER, 72nd Dist.

H.B. 5871