



Substitute Senate Bill No. 141

Special Act No. 21-35

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY CANCER RELIEF BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study cancer relief benefits for firefighters. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1) the adequacy of the firefighters cancer relief program established pursuant to section 7-313j of the general statutes, and (2) the feasibility and implications of providing workers' compensation and other benefits, including death benefits, to firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer acquired as a result of occupational exposure to noxious fumes or poisonous gases.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor;

(2) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom has expertise in the state's workers' compensation program and one of whom has expertise in cancer research;

(3) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of

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whom shall be a representative of a firefighters' labor organization;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

(5) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of a municipality with a paid fire department; and

(7) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a representative of a municipality with a volunteer fire department.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2022, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to labor, in

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accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2022, whichever is later.

Approved July 12, 2021