

1 H.661

2 Introduced by Representatives Taylor of Milton, Micklus of Milton, Morgan,

3 L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, and Steady of Milton

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Labor; workers' compensation; firefighters; cancer

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to add cancers of
8 the larynx, pharynx, and trachea to the cancers for which a firefighter may be
9 eligible to receive workers' compensation. This bill also proposes to delete the
10 requirement that a firefighter be under 65 years of age for a cancer to be
11 presumed to have occurred in the line of duty.

12 An act relating to workers' compensation coverage for firefighters with
13 cancer

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 601 is amended to read:

16 § 601. DEFINITIONS

17 As used in this chapter:

18 * * *

* * *

~~(III) the firefighter is under 65 years of age.~~

VT LEG #385632 v.1

1 (iii) The disabling cancer shall be limited to leukemia, lymphoma,
2 or multiple myeloma, and cancers originating in the bladder, brain, breast,
3 colon, gastrointestinal tract, kidney, larynx, liver, lung, pancreas, pharynx,
4 reproductive system, skin, ~~or~~ thyroid, or trachea.

5 (F) A firefighter who is diagnosed with cancer within 10 years of the
6 last active date of employment as a firefighter shall be eligible for benefits
7 under this subdivision. The date of injury shall be the date of the last injurious
8 exposure as a firefighter.

9 (G) It is recommended that fire departments:

10 (i) maintain incident report records for at least 10 years; and

11 (ii) offer or provide annual cancer screenings to all firefighters
12 who are employed by or who volunteer for the department.

13 * * *

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.