

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 530

To amend 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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 2003

Mr. KERRY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend 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 2003".

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) IN GENERAL.—Section 8102 of title 5, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(c)(1) In this subsection, the term ‘employee in fire
9 protection activities’ means an employee, including a fire-
10 fighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, rescue
11 worker, ambulance personnel, or hazardous materials
12 worker, who—

13 “(A) is trained in fire suppression, has the legal
14 authority and responsibility to engage in fire sup-
15 pression; and

16 “(B) is engaged in the prevention, control, and
17 extinguishment of fires or response to emergency sit-
18 uations where life, property, or the environment is at
19 risk.

20 “(2) In the case of an employee in fire protection ac-
21 tivities who has a disease specified in paragraph (3), the
22 employee’s disease shall be presumed to be proximately
23 caused by the employment of such employee. A disability
24 or death of an employee in fire protection activities due
25 to such a disease shall be presumed to result from personal
26 injury sustained while in the performance of such employ-

1 ee's duty. Such presumptions may be rebutted by a pre-
2 ponderance of the evidence.

3 “(3) The diseases specified in this paragraph are the
4 following:

5 “(A) Heart disease.

6 “(B) Lung disease.

7 “(C) The following cancers:

8 “(i) Brain cancer.

9 “(ii) Cancer of the blood or lymphatic sys-
10 tems.

11 “(iii) Leukemia.

12 “(iv) Lymphoma (except Hodgkin's dis-
13 ease).

14 “(v) Multiple myeloma.

15 “(vi) Bladder cancer.

16 “(vii) Kidney cancer.

17 “(viii) Prostate cancer.

18 “(ix) Testicular cancer.

19 “(x) Cancer of the digestive system.

20 “(xi) Colon cancer.

21 “(xii) Liver cancer.

22 “(xiii) Skin cancer.

23 “(xiv) Breast cancer.

24 “(xv) Lung cancer.

25 “(D) The following infectious diseases:

1 “(i) Tuberculosis.

2 “(ii) Hepatitis A, B, or C.

3 “(iii) Human immunodeficiency virus
4 (HIV).

5 “(iv) Diphtheria.

6 “(v) Hemorrhagic fever.

7 “(vi) Meningococcal disease.

8 “(vii) Rabies.

9 “(viii) Any uncommon infectious disease
10 the contraction of which the Secretary of Labor
11 determines to be related to the hazards to
12 which an employee in fire protection activities
13 may be subject.”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
15 this section applies to an injury that is first diagnosed,
16 or a death that occurs, on or after the date of enactment
17 of this Act.

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