

HB 2217 -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION

SPONSOR: Sauls

This bill allows firefighters and first responders to receive Workers' Compensation for, but not limited to, diseases of the heart, diseases of the cardiovascular system, any infectious diseases, and diseases of the lungs or respiratory tract. Mental disorders may be recognized as occupational diseases and may be defined to be a disability due to stressful exposures, if such psychological stress or mental disorders arise from their employment.

The employer of the firefighter or first responder has a duty to provide reasonable medical evidence. If the employer does not provide reasonable medical evidence, then the first responder will have the benefit of the presumption regardless of the absence of medical evidence.

References to "the body systems or organs from carcinoma" shall be presumed to be references to cancer and an occupational disease if:

- (1) The first responder has been assigned to at least 5 years of hazardous duty,
- (2) The first responder was exposed to an agent classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer,
- (3) Fewer than 20 years have elapsed since the first responder was last assigned to hazardous duty; and
- (4) At the time of the diagnosis of cancer, the first responder was under the age of 70.

The division must prepare and submit a report regarding presumed cancer claims before August 28, 2021 and an updated report every 2 years thereafter. This report shall be provided to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House, the President Pro Tem and the Minority Leader of the Senate, The Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs, The Fire Fighters Association of Missouri, and the Missouri Municipal League.