

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 568

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SAULS.

1088H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 287.067, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to workers' compensation for firefighters and other first responders.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 287.067, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 287.067 and 287.068, to read as follows:

287.067. 1. **(1)** In this chapter the term "occupational disease" is hereby defined to mean, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context, an identifiable disease arising with or without human fault out of and in the course of the employment. Ordinary diseases of life to which the general public is exposed outside of the employment shall not be compensable, except where the diseases follow as an incident of an occupational disease as defined in this section. The disease need not to have been foreseen or expected but after its contraction it must appear to have had its origin in a risk connected with the employment and to have flowed from that source as a rational consequence.

**(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "hazardous duty" has the same meaning given to such term under 5 CFR 550.902.**

2. An injury or death by occupational disease is compensable only if the occupational exposure was the prevailing factor in causing both the resulting medical condition and disability. The "prevailing factor" is defined to be the primary factor, in relation to any other factor, causing both the resulting medical condition and disability. Ordinary, gradual deterioration, or progressive degeneration of the body caused by aging or by the normal activities of day-to-day living shall not be compensable.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17           3. An injury due to repetitive motion is recognized as an occupational disease for  
18 purposes of this chapter. An occupational disease due to repetitive motion is compensable  
19 only if the occupational exposure was the prevailing factor in causing both the resulting  
20 medical condition and disability. The "prevailing factor" is defined to be the primary factor,  
21 in relation to any other factor, causing both the resulting medical condition and disability.  
22 Ordinary, gradual deterioration, or progressive degeneration of the body caused by aging or  
23 by the normal activities of day-to-day living shall not be compensable.

24           4. "Loss of hearing due to industrial noise" is recognized as an occupational disease  
25 for purposes of this chapter and is hereby defined to be a loss of hearing in one or both ears  
26 due to prolonged exposure to harmful noise in employment. "Harmful noise" means sound  
27 capable of producing occupational deafness.

28           5. "Radiation disability" is recognized as an occupational disease for purposes of this  
29 chapter and is hereby defined to be that disability due to radioactive properties or substances  
30 or to Roentgen rays (X-rays) or exposure to ionizing radiation caused by any process  
31 involving the use of or direct contact with radium or radioactive properties or substances or  
32 the use of or direct exposure to Roentgen rays (X-rays) or ionizing radiation.

33           6. **(1)** Disease of the lungs or respiratory tract<sup>[;]</sup>; **diseases of the heart or**  
34 **cardiovascular system including, but not limited to, diseases of the blood or bone**  
35 **marrow, hypotension, and hypertension**~~[; or disease of the heart or cardiovascular system,~~  
36 ~~including]; and diseases of the body systems or organs from carcinoma<sup>[;]</sup> may be~~  
37 recognized as occupational diseases for the purposes of this chapter and are defined to be  
38 disability due to exposure to smoke, gases, carcinogens, or inadequate oxygen<sup>[;]</sup> of paid or  
39 **volunteer firefighters, firefighter paramedics, or firefighter emergency medical**  
40 **technicians** of a ~~[paid]~~ fire department or **fire district** or paid police officers of a paid  
41 police department certified under chapter 590~~[if a direct causal relationship is established,~~  
42 ~~or]~~.

43           **(2)** For purposes of this chapter, psychological stress and mental disorders may  
44 be recognized as occupational diseases of **paid, volunteer, or retired** firefighters ~~[of a paid~~  
45 ~~fire department]~~, **paramedics, or emergency medical technicians**, or paid peace officers of  
46 a police department who are certified under chapter 590 ~~[if a direct causal relationship is~~  
47 ~~established]~~. **Such psychological stress and mental disorders shall be defined to be**  
48 **disability due to stressful exposures if such psychological stress and mental disorders**  
49 **arise from their employment.**

50           7. **(1)** Any infectious disease; disease of the lungs or respiratory tract; disease of  
51 **the heart or cardiovascular system including, but not limited to, disease of the blood or**  
52 **bone marrow, hypotension, and hypertension; or disease of the body systems or organs**  
53 **from carcinoma contracted by a paid, volunteer, or retired firefighter, paramedic, or**

54 emergency medical technician shall be presumed to be an occupational disease if there is  
55 reasonable medical evidence that the paid, volunteer, or retired firefighter, paramedic,  
56 or emergency medical technician was free of such disease at the beginning of his or her  
57 employment. It shall be the duty of the employer of the paid, volunteer, or retired  
58 firefighter, paramedic, or emergency medical technician to provide such reasonable  
59 medical evidence.

60 (2) If the employer fails to produce such reasonable medical evidence, the paid,  
61 volunteer, or retired firefighter, paramedic, or emergency medical technician shall have  
62 the benefit of the presumption regardless of the absence of reasonable medical evidence.

63 (3) This subsection shall apply to paid, volunteer, and retired firefighters,  
64 paramedics, and emergency medical technicians of all fire departments of all counties,  
65 political subdivisions, cities, towns, fire districts, and other governmental units.

66 (4) As used in this section, "infectious disease" means the human  
67 immunodeficiency virus, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, tuberculosis, hepatitis  
68 A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D, diphtheria, meningococcal meningitis,  
69 methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, hemorrhagic fever, plague, rabies, and  
70 severe acute respiratory syndrome.

71 8. (1) As used in this section, "psychological stress" and "mental disorder" shall  
72 be presumed to be occupational diseases that were contracted in the course and scope of  
73 employment, regardless of whether their onset is sudden or gradual, if such  
74 "psychological stress" or "mental disorder" requires medical services or results in  
75 physical or mental disability, diagnosed by a psychiatrist or psychologist, of a paid,  
76 volunteer, or retired firefighter, paramedic, or emergency medical technician or of a  
77 paid police officer of a paid police department certified under chapter 590.

78 (2) A paid, volunteer, or retired firefighter, paramedic, or emergency medical  
79 technician, or a paid police officer of a paid police department certified under chapter  
80 590, who is diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder, psychological stress, or a  
81 mental disorder during employment or within three years of the last active date of  
82 employment shall be eligible for compensation benefits as otherwise provided for in this  
83 chapter.

84 9. Compensation for an infectious disease; disease of the lungs or respiratory  
85 tract; disease of the heart or cardiovascular system including, but not limited to, disease  
86 of the blood or bone marrow, hypotension, or hypertension; disease of the body systems  
87 or organs from carcinoma; and psychological stress contracted by a paid, volunteer, or  
88 retired firefighter, paramedic, or emergency medical technician in the course of  
89 hazardous duty under this section shall be payable as otherwise provided for in this  
90 chapter.

91           **10. As used in this section, the phrase "the body systems or organs from**  
92 **carcinoma" refers to any condition of cancer affecting the skin or the central nervous,**  
93 **lymphatic, digestive, hematological, urinary, skeletal, oral, breast, testicular,**  
94 **genitourinary, liver, or prostate systems, as well as any condition of cancer that may**  
95 **result from exposure to heat absorption, inhalation, ingestion, or radiation, contracted**  
96 **by a paid, volunteer, or retired firefighter, firefighter paramedic, or firefighter**  
97 **emergency medical technician. References to "the body systems or organs from**  
98 **carcinoma" shall be presumed to be references to cancer and an occupational disease if:**

99           **(1) The paid, volunteer, or retired firefighter, firefighter paramedic, or**  
100 **firefighter emergency medical technician has been assigned to at least five years of**  
101 **hazardous duty as a firefighter, firefighter paramedic, or firefighter emergency medical**  
102 **technician;**

103           **(2) The paid, volunteer, or retired firefighter, firefighter paramedic, or**  
104 **firefighter emergency medical technician was exposed to an agent, whether known or**  
105 **unknown, classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, or any**  
106 **successor organization, as a group 1 or 2A carcinogen or classified as a cancer-causing**  
107 **agent by the American Cancer Society, the American Association for Cancer Research,**  
108 **the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the American Society of Clinical**  
109 **Oncology, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or the United**  
110 **States National Cancer Institute;**

111           **(3) Fewer than twenty years have elapsed since the paid, volunteer, or retired**  
112 **firefighter, firefighter paramedic, or firefighter emergency medical technician was last**  
113 **assigned to hazardous duty; and**

114           **(4) At the time of the diagnosis of cancer, the paid, volunteer, or retired**  
115 **firefighter, firefighter paramedic, or firefighter emergency medical technician is not**  
116 **seventy years of age or older.**

117           **11. The presumption described in subsection 10 of this section shall be rebuttable**  
118 **if:**

119           **(1) There is evidence that the exposure to personal use of cigarettes, tobacco**  
120 **products, or other conditions presenting an extremely high risk for the development of**  
121 **the cancer was, more likely than not, the prevailing factor in the cause of progression of**  
122 **the cancer, and such exposure occurred outside the scope of employment as a paid,**  
123 **volunteer, or retired firefighter, firefighter paramedic, or firefighter emergency medical**  
124 **technician; or**

125           **(2) There is evidence that the paid, volunteer, or retired firefighter, firefighter**  
126 **paramedic, or firefighter emergency medical technician developed the type of cancer**  
127 **alleged before becoming a member of the fire department or fire district.**

128           **12. The presumption described in subsection 8 of this section shall be rebuttable**  
129 **if:**

130           **(1) There is evidence that the condition existed prior to the commencement of**  
131 **the employment;**

132           **(2) The prevailing factor in causing such condition is unrelated to the**  
133 **employment; or**

134           **(3) The prevailing factor in causing such condition is from exposures occurring**  
135 **outside the scope of the employment.**

136           **13. Any employee who is exposed to and contracts any contagious or communicable**  
137 **disease arising out of and in the course of his or her employment shall be eligible for benefits**  
138 **under this chapter as an occupational disease.**

139           ~~[8-]~~ **14. With regard to occupational disease due to repetitive motion, if the exposure**  
140 **to the repetitive motion which is found to be the cause of the injury is for a period of less than**  
141 **three months and the evidence demonstrates that the exposure to the repetitive motion with**  
142 **the immediate prior employer was the prevailing factor in causing the injury, the prior**  
143 **employer shall be liable for such occupational disease.**

**287.068. 1. The division shall prepare a report containing the following**  
2 **information regarding presumed cancer claims under subsection 10 of section 287.067:**

3           **(1) The number of approved claims;**

4           **(2) The number of disapproved claims;**

5           **(3) The number of active claims; and**

6           **(4) The cost related to claims described under subdivisions (1) and (3) of this**  
7 **subsection.**

8           **2. The division shall submit the report required under subsection 1 of this**  
9 **section before August 28, 2024, and an updated report every two years thereafter, to**  
10 **each of the following:**

11           **(1) The speaker and the minority leader of the house of representatives;**

12           **(2) The president pro tempore and the minority leader of the senate;**

13           **(3) The Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs or its successor organization;**

14           **(4) The Fire Fighters Association of Missouri or its successor organization; and**

15           **(5) The Missouri Municipal League or its successor organization.**

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