

HB 385-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

9Apr2021... 0307h

2021 SESSION

21-0481

10/08

HOUSE BILL

***385-FN***

AN ACT                    relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

SPONSORS:            Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Rep. S. Pearson, Rock. 6; Rep. Shurtleff, Merr. 11; Rep. Goley, Hills. 8; Rep. Doucette, Rock. 8; Rep. Pratt, Rock. 3; Rep. Soucy, Merr. 16; Rep. Lanzara, Hills. 28; Rep. O'Brien, Hills. 36

COMMITTEE:        Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

      This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters.

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Explanation:        Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                          Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
                          Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

AN ACT                      relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1   Workers' Compensation; Firefighter and Heart, Lung, or Cancer Disease; Presumption.

2   Amend RSA 281-A:17, I(c) to read as follows:

3            (c) The benefits of RSA 281-A:17, I shall not continue in effect beyond one month after a  
4   call, volunteer or permanent firefighter reaches his or her ~~[sixty-fifth]~~ **seventieth** birthday.

5            2   Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 385-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2021-0307h)

AN ACT                      relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**    ☐ State                      ☒ County                      ☒ Local                      ☐ None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Various Government Funds			

**COUNTY:**

<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

**LOCAL:**

<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters. Extending the limitation to age 70 could lead to more claims for workers' compensation, and increased workers' compensation rates for municipalities. However, the Association has no information from which to estimate any increase in claims or costs. The Association does not expect any impact on municipal revenues.

The Department of Safety indicates this change would increase the potential for continuation of current claims and make new claims possible. The costs related to the increased claims cannot be determined, but would impact State, county and local expenditures for workers compensation.

The Department of Labor does not anticipate this bill would impact state, county or local revenues. In terms of expenditures, the Department states it is possible that extension of the presumption to age 70 could lead to increased expenditures, at the county and local levels

through an increase in premiums costs for workers' compensation coverage. However, there is no way for the Department to credibly quantify such potential increase in accepted claims or premium costs.

It is assumed no fiscal impact will occur until after July 1, 2021.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

New Hampshire Municipal Association and Departments of Safety and Labor