

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to firefighter cancer benefits and
3 prevention; amending s. 112.1816, F.S.; revising
4 conditions under which a specified one-time payment
5 must be made by a former employer upon a firefighter's
6 cancer diagnosis; requiring a former employer to
7 provide death benefits for a specified period under
8 certain circumstances; removing the requirement for
9 the Division of State Fire Marshal to adopt rules for
10 establishing employer cancer prevention best
11 practices; providing an effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 **Section 1. Subsection (2), paragraph (c) of subsection**
16 **(4), and subsection (6) of section 112.1816, Florida Statutes,**
17 **are amended to read:**

18 112.1816 Firefighters; cancer diagnosis.—

19 (2) Upon a diagnosis of cancer, a firefighter is entitled
20 to the following benefits, as an alternative to pursuing
21 workers' compensation benefits under chapter 440, if the
22 firefighter has been employed by his or her employer for at
23 least 5 continuous years, has not used tobacco products for at
24 least the preceding 5 years, and has not been employed in any
25 other position in the preceding 5 years which is proven to

26 create a higher risk for any cancer:

27 (a) Cancer treatment covered within an employer-sponsored
28 health plan or through a group health insurance trust fund. The
29 employer must timely reimburse the firefighter for any out-of-
30 pocket deductible, copayment, or coinsurance costs incurred due
31 to the treatment of cancer. If the firefighter elects to
32 continue coverage in the employer-sponsored health plan or group
33 health insurance trust fund after he or she terminates
34 employment, such benefits must be made available by his or her
35 former employer for 10 years after the date on which the
36 firefighter terminated employment so long as the firefighter
37 otherwise met the criteria specified in this subsection when he
38 or she terminated employment and was not employed as a
39 firefighter after that date.

40 (b) A one-time cash payout of \$25,000, upon the
41 firefighter's ~~initial~~ diagnosis of cancer. Such benefit must be
42 made available by his or her former employer for 10 years after
43 the date on which the firefighter terminates employment so long
44 as the firefighter otherwise met the criteria specified in this
45 subsection when he or she terminated employment and was not
46 employed as a firefighter after that date.

47 (c) Leave time and employee retention benefits equivalent
48 to those provided for other injuries or illnesses incurred in
49 the line of duty.
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51 ~~If the firefighter elects to continue coverage in the employer-~~
52 ~~sponsored health plan or group health insurance trust fund after~~
53 ~~he or she terminates employment, the benefits specified in~~
54 ~~paragraphs (a) and (b) must be made available by the former~~
55 ~~employer of a firefighter for 10 years following the date on~~
56 ~~which the firefighter terminates employment so long as the~~
57 ~~firefighter otherwise met the criteria specified in this~~
58 ~~subsection when he or she terminated employment and was not~~
59 ~~subsequently employed as a firefighter following that date.~~

60 (4)

61 (c) Firefighters who die as a result of cancer or
62 circumstances that arise out of the treatment of cancer are
63 considered to have died in the manner as described in s.
64 112.191(2) (a), and all of the benefits arising out of such death
65 are available to the deceased firefighter's beneficiary. Such
66 death benefits must be made available by the former employer of
67 the firefighter for 1 year after the date on which the
68 firefighter terminated employment so long as the firefighter
69 otherwise met the criteria specified in this subsection when he
70 or she terminated employment and was not employed as a
71 firefighter after that date.

72 ~~(6) The Division of State Fire Marshal within the~~
73 ~~Department of Financial Services shall adopt rules to establish~~
74 ~~employer cancer prevention best practices as it relates to~~
75 ~~personal protective equipment, decontamination, fire suppression~~

HB 813

2026

76 | ~~apparatus, and fire stations.~~

77 | **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.