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FIRE FIGHTERS' DISABILITY COMP.

House Bill 4626

Sponsor: Rep. Raymond M. Murphy
Committee: Labor

Complete to 3-30-92

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4626 AS INTRODUCED 3-21-92

The Worker's Disability Compensation Act defines "personal injury" as a disease or disability which is due to causes and conditions that are characteristic of and peculiar to an employer's business and which arises out of and in the course of an employee's work there. However, for certain public employees (i.e., members of "fully paid" police and fire departments of the state and of local governments) this term includes respiratory and heart diseases--or illnesses resulting from them--that develop during the public employee's active service, and result from the performance of his or her duties with the public employer.

The bill would amend the act to expand the definition of personal injury for members of fully paid fire departments, as described in the act, to include occupational cancer or illnesses that result from it. The bill would define "occupational cancer" to mean cancer caused by exposure to smoke, fumes, or carcinogenic, poisonous, toxic or chemical substances while the employee performed duties for the fire department. Under the bill, occupational cancer and illnesses resulting from it would be deemed to arise out of and in the course of employment if evidence to the contrary did not exist.

The act now provides for the expanded definition of personal injury to apply to, among other public fire-fighting officials, a member of a fully paid fire department of an airport run by a county road commission in counties of at least 1 million people; the bill, instead, would make the special definition apply to a member of a fully paid fire department of an airport run by a county or public airport authority.

MCL 418.405

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