

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 530

To amend title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 2003

Mr. KERRY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

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# A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Federal Firefighters  
5 Fairness Act of 2003”.

1 SEC. 2. CERTAIN DISEASES PRESUMED TO BE WORK-RE-  
2 LATED CAUSE OF DISABILITY OR DEATH FOR  
3 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN FIRE PROTECTION  
4 ACTIVITIES.

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8102 of title 5, United  
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing:

8       “(c)(1) In this subsection, the term ‘employee in fire  
9 protection activities’ means an employee, including a fire-  
10 fighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, rescue  
11 worker, ambulance personnel, or hazardous materials  
12 worker, who—

13               “(A) is trained in fire suppression, has the legal  
14               authority and responsibility to engage in fire sup-  
15               pression; and

16               “(B) is engaged in the prevention, control, and  
17               extinguishment of fires or response to emergency sit-  
18               uations where life, property, or the environment is at  
19               risk.

“(2) In the case of an employee in fire protection activities who has a disease specified in paragraph (3), the employee’s disease shall be presumed to be proximately caused by the employment of such employee. A disability or death of an employee in fire protection activities due to such a disease shall be presumed to result from personal injury sustained while in the performance of such employ-

1 ee's duty. Such presumptions may be rebutted by a pre-  
2 ponderance of the evidence.

3 "(3) The diseases specified in this paragraph are the  
4 following:

5 "(A) Heart disease.

6 "(B) Lung disease.

7 "(C) The following cancers:

8 "(i) Brain cancer.

9 "(ii) Cancer of the blood or lymphatic sys-  
10 tems.

11 "(iii) Leukemia.

12 "(iv) Lymphoma (except Hodgkin's dis-  
13 ease).

14 "(v) Multiple myeloma.

15 "(vi) Bladder cancer.

16 "(vii) Kidney cancer.

17 "(viii) Prostate cancer.

18 "(ix) Testicular cancer.

19 "(x) Cancer of the digestive system.

20 "(xi) Colon cancer.

21 "(xii) Liver cancer.

22 "(xiii) Skin cancer.

23 "(xiv) Breast cancer.

24 "(xv) Lung cancer.

25 "(D) The following infectious diseases:

1                 “(i) Tuberculosis.  
2                 “(ii) Hepatitis A, B, or C.  
3                 “(iii) Human immunodeficiency virus  
4                 (HIV).  
5                 “(iv) Diphtheria.  
6                 “(v) Hemorrhagic fever.  
7                 “(vi) Meningococcal disease.  
8                 “(vii) Rabies.  
9                 “(viii) Any uncommon infectious disease  
10                 the contraction of which the Secretary of Labor  
11                 determines to be related to the hazards to  
12                 which an employee in fire protection activities  
13                 may be subject.”.

14                 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
15 this section applies to an injury that is first diagnosed,  
16 or a death that occurs, on or after the date of enactment  
17 of this Act.

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