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Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Aug 1, 2007

Current Status: By Senator Lieberman from Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs filed written repo

Latest Action: By Senator Lieberman from Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs filed written report. Report No. 110-520. (Nov 17, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/1924>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]

Party: Democratic • **State:** DE • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (19 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Aug 1, 2007 |
| Sen. Warner, John [R-VA] | R · VA | | Aug 1, 2007 |
| Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA] | D · MA | | Aug 2, 2007 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH] | D · OH | | Sep 4, 2007 |
| Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME] | R · ME | | Sep 4, 2007 |
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] | I · VT | | Sep 4, 2007 |
| Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO] | D · MO | | Sep 5, 2007 |
| Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA] | R · GA | | Sep 6, 2007 |
| Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME] | R · ME | | Oct 15, 2007 |
| Sen. Dodd, Christopher J. [D-CT] | D · CT | | Nov 15, 2007 |
| Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT] | ID · CT | | Dec 6, 2007 |
| Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM] | D · NM | | Mar 11, 2008 |
| Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL] | D · IL | | Mar 11, 2008 |
| Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI] | D · RI | | Mar 11, 2008 |
| Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA] | D · MA | | Mar 12, 2008 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA | | Apr 23, 2008 |
| Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA] | D · LA | | Jun 25, 2008 |
| Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA] | D · WA | | Jul 28, 2008 |
| Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] | D · WA | | Sep 15, 2008 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee | Senate | Referred to | Aug 22, 2007 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 110 HR 103 | Related bill | May 9, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. |
| 110 HR 1142 | Related bill | Feb 16, 2007: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. |

Summary (as of Oct 1, 2008)

Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2008 - Provides that: (1) specified diseases, including heart disease, lung disease, tuberculosis, hepatatis, human immunodeficiency virus, and specified cancers, of federal employees in fire protection activities shall be presumed to be proximately caused by such employment; (2) the disability or death of such an employee due to such a disease shall be presumed to result from personal injury sustained while in the performance of duty; and (3) such presumptions may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence.

Defines an "employee in fire protection activities" as a firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, rescue worker, ambulance personnel, or hazardous material worker, who: (1) is trained in fire suppression; (2) has the legal authority and responsibility to engage in fire suppression; (3) is engaged in the prevention, control, and extinguishment of fires or response to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk; and (4) performs such activities as a primary responsibility of his or her job.

Directs the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to examine the implementation of this Act and appropriate scientific and medical data related to the health risks associated with firefighting and to report to Congress on: (1) an analysis of the injury claims made under this Act; (2) an analysis of the available research related to the health risks associated with firefighting; and (3) recommendations for any administrative or legislative actions necessary to ensure that those diseases most associated with firefighting are included in the presumption created by this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 17, 2008:** By Senator Lieberman from Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs filed written report. Report No. 110-520.
- **Oct 1, 2008:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Lieberman with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Oct 1, 2008:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 1102.
- **Jun 25, 2008:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Aug 22, 2007:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs referred to Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia.
- **Aug 1, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 1, 2007:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.