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Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Jun 24, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Jun 24, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1942>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 4, 2020
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 11, 2020
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 12, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 24, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 1174	Related bill	Feb 13, 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2019

This bill provides federal worker's compensation to firefighters who contract certain illnesses as a result of their service.

Specifically, the bill provides that (1) heart disease, lung disease, and specified cancers of federal employees employed in fire protection activities for at least 5 years is presumed to be proximately caused by such employment if the employee is diagnosed with the disease within 10 years of their employment in fire protection activities; and (2) the disability or death of the employee due to such disease is presumed to result from personal injury sustained in the performance of duty. These presumptions also apply to fire protection employees who contract any uncommon infectious disease, such as tuberculosis, hepatitis A, B, or C, or the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

An *employee in fire protection activities* is 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.

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must examine the implementation of this bill and appropriate scientific and medical data related to the health risks of firefighting.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 24, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
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