

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 65-01-15.1 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to the workers' compensation presumption of compensability for firefighters; and to  
3 provide for application.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 65-01-15.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **65-01-15.1. Presumption of compensability for certain conditions of full-time paid**  
8 **firefighters and law enforcement officers.**

- 9 1. Any condition or impairment of health of a full-time paid firefighter or law  
10 enforcement officer caused by lung or respiratory disease, hypertension, heart  
11 disease, or an exposure to a bloodborne pathogen as defined by section  
12 23-07.5-01 occurring in the course of employment, or occupational cancer in a  
13 full-time paid firefighter, resulting in total or partial disability or death is presumed to  
14 have been suffered in the line of duty. The condition or impairment of health may  
15 not be attributed to any disease existing before that total or partial disability or  
16 death unless the contrary is shown by competent evidence.
- 17 2. As used in this section, an occupational cancer is one which arises out of  
18 employment as a full-time paid firefighter and is due to injury due to exposure to  
19 smoke, fumes, or carcinogenic, poisonous, toxic, or chemical substances while in  
20 the performance of active duty as a full-time paid firefighter.
- 21 3. A full-time paid firefighter or law enforcement officer is not eligible for the benefit  
22 provided under this section unless that full-time paid firefighter or law enforcement  
23 officer has completed five years of continuous service and has successfully passed  
24 a medical examination which fails to reveal any evidence of such a condition. An

1 employer shall require a medical examination upon employment, for any employee  
2 subject to this section. After the initial medical examination, an employer shall  
3 require at least a periodic medical examination as follows: for one to ten years of  
4 service, every five years; for eleven to twenty years of service, every three years;  
5 and for twenty-one or more years of service, every year. The periodic medical  
6 examination, at a minimum, must consist of a general medical history of the  
7 individual and the individual's family; an occupational history including contact with  
8 and an exposure to hazardous materials, toxic products, contagious and infectious  
9 diseases, and to physical hazards; a physical examination including measurement  
10 of height, weight, and blood pressure; and laboratory and diagnostic procedures  
11 including a nonfasting total blood cholesterol test and papanicolaou smear for  
12 women. If the medical examination reveals that an employee falls into a  
13 recognized risk group, the employee must be referred to a qualified health  
14 professional for future medical examination. If a medical examination produces a  
15 false positive result for a condition covered under this section which causes a wage  
16 loss, the organization may consider this a period of disability. In the case of a false  
17 positive result, the period of disability may not exceed twenty-eight days. This  
18 section does not affect an employee's responsibility to document that the employee  
19 has not used tobacco as required under section 65-01-15. Results of the  
20 examination must be used in rebuttal to a presumption afforded under this section.

21 4. For purposes of this section, "law enforcement officer" means a person who is  
22 licensed to perform peace officer law enforcement duties under chapter 12-63 and  
23 is employed full time by the bureau of criminal investigation, the game and fish  
24 department, the state highway patrol, the parole and probation division, the North  
25 Dakota state university police department, the North Dakota state college of  
26 science police department, the university of North Dakota police department, a  
27 county sheriff's department, or a city police department.

28 5. The presumption does not include a condition or impairment of health of a full-time  
29 paid firefighter or law enforcement officer, who has been employed for ten years or  
30 less, if the condition or impairment is diagnosed more than two years after the  
31 employment as a full-time paid firefighter or law enforcement officer ends. The

1                   presumption also does not include a condition or impairment of health of a full-time  
2                   paid firefighter or law enforcement officer, who has been employed more than ten  
3                   years, if the condition or impairment is diagnosed more than five years after the  
4                   employment as a full-time paid firefighter or law enforcement officer ends.

5                   **SECTION 2. APPLICATION.** This Act applies to all false positive results occurring on  
6                   or after the effective date of this Act.