

HB416 SUBSTITUTE 2: FIREFIGHTER CANCER AMENDMENTS

SPONSOR: REPRESENTATIVE TEUSCHER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Firefighters have a much higher risk of certain cancers due to long-term exposure to smoke, chemicals, and other hazardous materials. Utah law already recognizes presumptive cancers that emerge from a firefighter's service for workers' compensation.

However, workers' compensation claims can take time, and firefighters face health and potentially higher costs as their cancer progresses in the meantime. Cancer-related claims can also affect workers' comp premiums for cities and fire departments.

BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Trustees is made up of 11 members:

- Chosen by the President of the Senate
 - 1 Senator
 - 1 fire chief from a country of the first or second class
 - 1 fire chief from a county of the third through sixth class
- Chosen by the Speaker of the House
 - 1 Representative
 - 2 firefighters who possess a rank of captain or below
 - 1 individual with professional investment experience
- Chosen by the Governor
 - 1 licensed physician or surgeon with professional expertise in oncology or occupational medicine
 - 2 individuals who are either an elected municipal official or a city manager

CANCER BENEFIT TRUST FUND

HB416 creates a Board of Trustees within the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy to manage a cancer benefit trust fund intended to reduce workers' comp premiums for firefighter coverage and to provide early financial support to firefighters diagnosed with presumptive cancer while workers' comp claims are being filed.

The Board of Trustees will oversee the cancer benefit fund and make recommendations to the EAC about benefit levels, investment, funding, and how trust fund payments relate to workers' compensation fund awards.

The fund can receive money from insurance premium tax revenue (once other targets are met), legislative appropriations, private donations and grants, and other lawful sources of revenue.

