Bill as Introduced

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HB 385-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

9Apr2021... 0307h

2021 SESSION

21-0481 10/08

HOUSE BILL	385-FN
	000-1.14

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

SPONSORS: Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Rep. S. Pearson, Rock. 6; Rep. Shurtleff, Merr. 11; Rep. Goley, Hills. 8; Rep. Doucette, Rock. 8; Rep. Pratt, Rock. 3; Rep. Soucy, Merr. 16; Rep. Lanzara, Hills. 28; Rep. O'Brien, Hills. 36

COMMITTEE: Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters.

Explanation:Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics.**Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough.]Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 385-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

9Apr2021... 0307h

5

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Workers' Compensation; Firefighter and Heart, Lung, or Cancer Disease; Presumption. 2 Amend RSA 281-A:17, I(c) to read as follows:

3 (c) The benefits of RSA 281-A:17, I shall not continue in effect beyond one month after a
4 call, volunteer or permanent firefighter reaches his or her [sixty-fifth] seventieth birthday.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

LBA 21-0481 12/30/20

HB 385-FN- FISCAL NOTE AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

FISCAL IMPACT:	[X] State	[X] County	[X] Local	[] None
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	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)				
STATE:	FY 2021		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appropriation		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	:	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Funding Source:	[X] Genēral		[] Education [] Highway [] Other

COUNTY:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	· \$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

METHODOLOGY:

The New Hampshire Municipal Association states this bill would repeal RSA 281-A:17, I(c), regarding the presumption that heart or lung disease in firefighters is occupationally related terminates one month after the firefighter's 65th birthday. Repealing this limitation could lead to more claims for workers' compensation, and increased workers' compensation rates for municipalities. However, the Association has no information from which to estimate any increase in claims or costs. The Association does not expect any impact on municipal revenues.

The Department of Safety indicates this change would increase the potential for continuation of current claims and make new claims possible. The costs related to the increased claims cannot be determined, but would impact State, county and local expenditures for workers compensation.

The Department of Labor does not anticipate this bill would impact state, county or local revenues. In terms of expenditures, the Department states it is possible that extension of the presumption beyond age 65 could lead to increased expenditures, at the county and local levels through an increase in premiums costs for workers' compensation coverage. However, there is no way for the Department to credibly quantify such potential increase in accepted claims or premium costs.

It is assumed no fiscal impact will occur until after July 1, 2021.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

New Hampshire Municipal Association and Departments of Safety and Labor

LBA 21-0481 Amended 4/16/21

HB 385-FN FISCAL NOTE AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2021-0307h)

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

FISCAL IMPACT: [X] State [X] County [X] Local [] None

	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
STATE:	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0.	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Funding Source:	[X] General Various Governmer	[] Education at Funds	[] Highway	[X] Other -

COUNTY:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

LOCAL:

Revenue		\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

METHODOLOGY:

This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters. Extending the limitation to age 70 could lead to more claims for workers' compensation, and increased workers' compensation rates for municipalities. However, the Association has no information from which to estimate any increase in claims or costs. The Association does not expect any impact on municipal revenues.

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It is assumed no fiscal impact will occur until after July 1, 2021.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

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New Hampshire Municipal Association and Departments of Safety and Labor

HB 385-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

9Apr2021... 0307h

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2021 SESSION

21-0481 10/08

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HOUSE BILL 385-FN

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

SPONSORS: Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Rep. S. Pearson, Rock. 6; Rep. Shurtleff, Merr. 11; Rep. Goley, Hills. 8; Rep. Doucette, Rock. 8; Rep. Pratt, Rock. 3; Rep. Soucy, Merr. 16; Rep. Lanzara, Hills. 28; Rep. O'Brien, Hills. 36

COMMITTEE:	Labor, Industrial and Reb	abilitative Services -	-OTP/A 13-17
SENATE	Connerce:	0TP 5-0	CONSENT

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

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Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

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3 (c) The benefits of RSA 281-A:17, I shall not continue in effect beyond one month after a

4 call, volunteer or permanent firefighter reaches his or her [sixty-fifth] seventieth birthday.

5 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

LBA 21-0481 Amended 4/16/21

HB 385-FN- FISCAL NOTE AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2021-0307h)

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

FISCAL IMPACT: [X] State [X] County [X] Local [] None

	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
STATE:	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
Funding Source:	[X] General Various Governme	[] Education nt Funds	[] Highway	[X] Other -

COUNTY:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase

METHODOLOGY:

This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters. Extending the limitation to age 70 could lead to more claims for workers' compensation, and increased workers' compensation rates for municipalities. However, the Association has no information from which to estimate any increase in claims or costs. The Association does not expect any impact on municipal revenues.

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It is assumed no fiscal impact will occur until after July 1, 2021.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

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New Hampshire Municipal Association and Departments of Safety and Labor

CHAPTER 83 HB 385-FN - FINAL VERSION

9Apr2021... 0307h

2021 SESSION

21-0481 10/08

HOUSE BILL 385-FN

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

SPONSORS: Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Rep. S. Pearson, Rock. 6; Rep. Shurtleff, Merr. 11; Rep. Goley, Hills. 8; Rep. Doucette, Rock. 8; Rep. Pratt, Rock. 3; Rep. Soucy, Merr. 16; Rep. Lanzara, Hills. 28; Rep. O'Brien, Hills. 36

COMMITTEE: Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters.

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CHAPTER 83 HB 385-FN - FINAL VERSION

9Apr2021... 0307h

21-0481 10/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

83:1 Workers' Compensation; Firefighter and Heart, Lung, or Cancer Disease; Presumption.
 Amend RSA 281-A:17, I(c) to read as follows:

- 3 (c) The benefits of RSA 281-A:17, I shall not continue in effect beyond one month after a
- 4 call, volunteer or permanent firefighter reaches his or her [sixty fifth] seventieth birthday.

5 83:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 18, 2021 Effective Date: August 17, 2021

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE Commerce

Sen Harold French, Chair Sen Bill Gannon, Vice Chair Sen Jeb Bradley, Member Sen Donna Soucy, Member Sen Kevin Cavanaugh, Member

Date: April 15, 2021

HEARINGS

Tuesday		04/27/2021
	(Day)	(Date)
Commerce	, ,	REMOTE 000 9:00 a.m.
(Name of (Committee)	(Place) (Time)
9:00 a.m.	HB 227	relative to termination of tenancy at the expiration of the tenancy or lease term.
9:15 a.m.	HB 384-FN	prohibiting the sharing of location data.
`9:30 a.m.	HB 385-FN	relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.
9:45 a.m.	HB 448	establishing a committee to study and compare federal Occupational Safety and Health Act standards with the safety and health standards the New Hampshire department of labor uses for public sector employees.
10:00 a.m.	HB 593-FN	requiring a food delivery service to enter into an agreement with a food service establishment or food retail store before offering delivery service from that restaurant.

Committee members will receive secure Zoom invitations via email.

Members of the public may attend using the following links:

1. Link to Zoom Webinar: https://www.zoom.us/j/97416675416

2. To listen via telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

1-312-626-6799, or 1-646-558-8656, or 1-301-715-8592, or 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-9128, or 1-253-215-8782

3. Or iPhone one-tap: 13126266799,,97416675416# or 16465588656,,97416675416#

4. Webinar ID: <u>974 1667 5416</u>

5. To view/listen to this hearing on YouTube, use this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA

6. To sign in to speak, register your position on a bill and/or submit testimony, use this link:

http://gencourt.state.nh.us/remotecommittee/senate.aspx

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues; <u>remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us</u> or call (603-271-6931).

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:			,	
HB 227	•			
Rep. Lynn				
HB 384-FN				-
Rep. Wuelper	Rep. M. Smith		Rep. Verville	Rep. Gould
Rep. T. Lekas	Rep. Wallace		Rep. Testerman	-
HB 385-FN			-	
Rep. M. Pearson	Rep. S. Pearson	1	Rep. Shurtleff	Rep. Goley
Rep. Doucette	Rep. Pratt		Rep. Soucy	Rep. Lanzara
Rep. O'Brien	-			-
HB 448				
Rep. Sullivan	Rep. M. Pearson		Rep. Merner	Rep. Welch
Rep. Myler	Rep. Schultz		Rep. Schuett	Rep. Goley
Rep. Long	Sen. Cavanaugh		-	* -
HB 593-FN				
Rep. Wilhelm	Rep. Chretien		Rep. Oxaal	Rep. Moran

Aaron Jones 271-4063

<u>Harold F. French</u> Chairman

Senate Commerce Committee

Aaron Jones 271-4063

HB 385-FN, relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

Hearing Date: April 27, 2021

Time Opened:10:55 a.m.Time Closed:

osed: 11:03 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators French, Bradley, Soucy and Cavanaugh

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Gannon

Bill Analysis: This bill extends to age 70 the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters.

Sponsors:

Rep. M. Pearson Rep. Goley Rep. Soucy Rep. S. Pearson Rep. Doucette Rep. Lanzara

Rep. Shurtleff Rep. Pratt Rep. O'Brien

Who supports the bill: 35 people signed up in support of the bill. Full sign in sheet available upon request.

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: Danielle Albert (NH Department of Labor), Christian Citarella (NH Insurance Department)

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Mark Pearson

- This bill would extend workers' compensation benefits to firefighters that have heart and lung disease. Specifically, the benefits would be extended to the 70th birthday of a firefighter.
- Last session, a similar bill was introduced; however, it was tabled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Representative Pearson said this bill would incentivize people to become volunteer firefighters.
 - The number of volunteer firefighters has decreased throughout the state; however, some municipalities have seen sharper declines than others.

- Consequently, some smaller towns have needed to hire more professional firefighters, which has had cost implications.
- According to research, firefighters suffer from heart and lung conditions at a higher rate than the general population. Additionally, negative health effects might not manifest in firefighters until many years after their exposure.
- As a result of changes made to the New Hampshire Retirement System about a decade ago, some firefighters are staying longer in their positions to help secure a better retirement.
- Women firefighters are 7 times more likely to develop breast cancer compared to their non-firefighter counterparts.
- Representative Pearson reiterated that the reason the age limit was extended was to acknowledge the effects of prolonged exposure, to show respect and appreciation to those who put their lives on the line, and to help municipalities save money by decreasing the need to hire additional professional firefighters.
- Representative Pearson said the age extension is helpful and necessary, even if a firefighter qualifies for Medicare, because without workers' compensation a firefighter may have to pay medical copays or pay for medical equipment. Also, workers' compensation helps to pay for a firefighter who might be unable to return to work.

Representative Timothy Soucy

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- Under existing law, the prima facie presumption benefit expires when a firefighter turns 65 years old.
- Reiterating Representative Pearson, Representative Soucy said more people are retiring later in life and more volunteers are staying on the job longer.
 - Currently, if a firefighter or a volunteer retires after the age of 65, they can't receive the prima facie presumption benefit.
- This bill wouldn't make changes to the five-year benefit in RSA 281-A:17, I(b). Instead, this bill would simply increase the eligibility for prima facie presumption benefits to age 70.

Representative Will Infantine

- Representative Infantine said there weren't enough votes in the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee to extend the benefits to the death of an employee.
- As a result, the House Labor Committee passed an amendment to increase the benefits up until the seventieth birthday of a firefighter.

Brian Ryll, Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire

- Mr. Ryll said the amendment passed by the House Labor Committee was a fair compromise.
- Mr. Ryll concluded that this bill is extremely important for the health and wellness of firefighters throughout the state.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented:

Danielle Albert, Director of the Workers' Compensation Division, New Hampshire Department of Labor

• Director Albert said they understood the intent of the bill and they could implement it as it's currently written.

AJ Date Hearing Report completed: April 27, 2021

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE Finance

Sen Gary Daniels, Chair Sen John Reagan, Vice Chair Sen Bob Giuda, Member Sen Erin Hennessey, Member Sen Chuck Morse, Member Sen Lou D'Allesandro, Member Sen Cindy Rosenwald, Member

Date: May 13, 2021

Monday		05/17/2022	05/17/2021		
(Day)		(Date)			
Finance		REMOTE 000	1:00 p.m.		
(Name of Com	nittee)	(Place)	(Time)		
1:00 p.m.		BUDGET WORK SESSION			
		Department of Health and Human Services:			
		Office of the Commissioner			
		Division of Economic and Housing Stability			
		Division of Long-Term Supports and Services			

PLEASE NOTE: THE AGENCY LISTING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Members of the public may attend using the following links:

1. To join the webinar: https://www.zoom.us/j/99788764095

2. Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): 1-301-

715-8592, or 1-312-626-6799, or 1-929-205-6099, or 1-253-215-8782, or 1-346-248-7799,

or 1-669-900-6833

3. Or iPhone one-tap: 13017158592,,99788764095# or 13126266799,,99788764095#

4. Webinar ID: <u>997 8876 4095</u>

5. To view on YouTube, click here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: <u>remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us</u> or call (603-271-6931).

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY-FOLLOW?

Deb Martone 271-4980

<u>Gary L. Daniels</u> Chairman Speakers

Commerce Committee Testify List for Bill HB385 on 2021-04-27 Support: 36 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 2 Total to Testify: 5

Name	Email Address	Phone Phone	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>
	winfantine@aspen-ins.com	603.493.9779	An Elected Official	House Labor committee	Support	Yes
	canonpearson@yahoo.com	603.571.0205	An Elected Official	Prime Sponsor	Support	Yes
Soucy, Timothy	Tsoucy8371@aol.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Member of House Labor Committee	Support	Yes
Ryll, Brian	brian@pffnh.org	603-223-3304	A Lobbyist	Professional Fire Fighters of NH	Support	Yes
	danielle.albert@dol.nh.gov	603.271.8492	State Agency Staff	New Hampshire Department of Labor	Neutral	Yes
Hamblet, Joan	joan.hamblet@leg.state.nh.us	603.205.4925	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Harriott-Gathright, Linda	linda.HarriottGathright@leg.state.nh.us	16038804537	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Ballentine, John M	mikeb@btine.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Levesque, Cassandra	cassandra.levesque@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Pearson, Mark	Not Given	603.571.0205	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Simpson, Alexis	Alexis.simpson@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Pearson, Stephen	pearsonforderry@gmail.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Schapiro, Joe	joe.schapiro@leg.state.nh.us	603.852.5039	An Elected Official	Cheshire 16, Keene	Support	No
Lacasse, Marco	Not Given	16033615808	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
McBeath, Rebecca	NHStateHouse@gmail.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Lewandowski, Jean	jlewando@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Chase, Wendy	Not Given	603.319.7259	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Citarella, Christian	christian.g.citarella@ins.nh.gov	271-2113	State Agency Staff	Insurance Department	Neutral	No
Raff, Alan	araff9@gmail.com	603.714.0258	A Lobbyist	NH AFL-CIO	Support	No
Vail, Suzanne	Suzanne.vail@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Hillsborough County 30	Support	No
Hamer, Heidi	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Almy, Susan	susan.almy@comcast.net	603.448.4769	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Telerski, Laura	Laura.Telerski@Leg.State.NH.US	- 603.320.3957	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 35	Support	No
Grassie, Chuck	chuck.grassie@leg.state.nh.us	16039787417	An Elected Official	Strafford 11	Support	No
Mombourquette, Donna	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Cornell, Patricia	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No

Commerce Committee Testify List for Bill HB385 on 2021-04-27 Support: 36 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 2 Total to Testify: 5

Name	Email Address	Phone Phone	<u>Title</u>	Representing	Position	Testifying
Dontonville, Roger	rdontonville@gmail.com	603.632.7719	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Stevens, Representative Deb	debstevens4ward7@gmail.com	603.820.0866	An Elected Official	My 10K constituents	Support	No
Tucker, Kathy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Booras, Hon. Efstathia	efstathia.booras@state.leg.us.gov	603.930.3220	An Elected Official	Constituents	Support	No .
Dontonville, Anne	Adontonville@gmail.com	603.632.7719	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Weston, Joyce	jweston14@roadrunner.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	Ňo
Heath, Mary	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	hills 14	Support	No
Bartlett, Rep Christy	christydbartlett@gmail.com	603.717.8151	An Elected Official	Merrimack 19	Support	No
Lonano, James	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
DiLorenzo, Charlotte	cbdilorenzo@comcast.net	16039884405	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Smith, Suzanne	zanne719@gmail.com	603.715.0086	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Bixby, Peter	peter.bixby@leg.state.nh.us	16037495659	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No [.]

Testimony

Aaron Jones

From: Sent: To: Subject: Canon Mark A. Pearson <canonpearson@yahoo.com> Monday, April 19, 2021 1:19 PM Aaron Jones Testimony for Commerce Committee, please

HOUSE BILL 385 to be heard in SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

9:30 a.m., TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

I am State Rep. Mark Pearson from Hampstead, Chairman of the House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs committee, and, many years ago, a volunteer firefighter.

I am also the prime sponsor of **House Bill 385.** The bill would extend workers' compensation benefits for heart and lung disease in firefighters from sixty-five years to seventy.

In the last session this same bill came to the Senate with no upper age limit. As it was in 2020, HB 1113 passed unanimously through committee in the House and became part of the consent calendar. Alongside many other bills, unfortunately, this bill died on the table as part of the COVID response.

This year we are asking only for a five year extension of the age limit. This bill is the result of a compromise from the previous version of the bill by adding an incremental change to the 70th birthday of the fire fighter.

Why is this bill necessary?

* Studies have been done demonstrating how fire fighters suffer from heart or lung conditions at a much higher rate than the general population.

*Fire fighters have an increased risk of sudden cardiac events after participating in fire suppression activities. Fire fighters' risk of death from a heart attack is up to 100 times greater than those performing non-emergency work.

*Due to the sweeping changes made to the retirement system in 2011, fire fighters must work later into their lives in order to secure a healthy retirement.

*We also know that the job of a fire fighter has changed and the stress of this job

is significantly taking a toll on the bodies and minds of those who serve our communities.

1

*Women in the fire service are seven time more likely to develop breast cancer. Women are already grossly under-represented in the Fire Service. This bill will say to them, "Thank you for your service. We have your backs." We should not let this be a barrier for women in the fire service.

So whether it is to respect and acknowledge the impact of prolonged exposure for these men and women, or to show our appreciation to those professionals who put their lives on the line for us, extending the age limit is the right thing to do.

I know that although various laws and administrative rules are requiring that new materials that can catch fire be less toxic and therefore less harmful to firefighters, it will be years before firefighters will be free from damage to hearts and lungs from burning materials.

2

Some of the toxic effects take years to develop in an individual. Raising the age from sixty-five to seventy catches these benefits up with the fact that people are living longer.

Thank you, Rep. Mark Pearson

PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

O F N Ε W Н Δ M p S R Ε Н ł

Senate Commerce Committee NH State House 107 N Main Street Concord, NH 03301

RE: Testimony in support of HB 385-FN relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters

Dear Chairman French and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brian Ryll and I serve as the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire and am a Captain for the Portsmouth Fire Department. On behalf of the 42 local unions and approximately 2,000 active and retired professional fire fighters and paramedics that I represent, I am providing testimony in support of HB 385-FN relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters as amended.

After deliberations in the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee, we agreed with the chair and members of the committee to amend this bill from its original form eliminating the sunset provision entirely – to add an additional 5 years to the current statue, expanding the benefits from the presumption that heart or lung disease is occupationally related for firefighters to their 70th birthday.

The hazardous nature of the fire service industry has never been disputed. In fact, the State of New Hampshire has already recognized the serious and sometimes catastrophic effects of this profession by adopting legislation that states when a fire fighter is diagnosed with heart, lung or cancer disease it is presumed to have been occupationally related. Fire fighters routinely risk their lives to protect the citizens in the communities they serve, and are oftentimes rewarded with cardiovascular disease, pulmonary illness or a cancer diagnosis for their efforts. It is incumbent upon us to show these fire fighters that we will always have their back for the service they provide to this great state, and not just until they turn 65.

It is well documented that throughout the course of their duty, fire fighters are subjected to a number of occupational hazards that take a toll on the human body. The routine exposure to high physical and emotional stress, heat, and cancer causing carcinogens makes it far more likely that a fire fighter will develop cardiovascular disease, lung disease or cancer. The American Heart Association cites sudden cardiac death as the leading cause of death for fire fighters at approximately 45% of all job-related deaths. Repeated injury as a result of physical strain, emotional stress, or exposure to carcinogens or infectious diseases have a cumulative effect on the human body that increases a fire fighters risk of cardiovascular disease. [1] Moreover, The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's most recent study shows that fire fighters are at a 14% increased risk of dying from cancer as opposed to the general population. [2]



l respectfully ask for the committee's full support of HB 385, relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in fire fighters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Ryll President Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire

[1] Kales, S. N., & Smith, D. L. (April 2017). Firefighting and the Heart Implications for Prevention. Circulation, Volume 135, Pages (Issue 14), 1296-1299. Retrieved from https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/full/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.117.027018

[2] FAQ. (2020, December 30). Retrieved February 02, 2021, from https://firefightercancersupport.org/resources/fag/

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Voting Sheets

Senate Commerce Committee EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD 2021-2022 Session

	Bill #1B285-FN
Hearing date: <u>4/77/71</u>	
Executive Session date: 54	11
Motion of:	Vote:5-0
Committee Member M Sen. French, Chair	Iade by Second Yes No
Sen. Gannon, V-Chair	
Sen. Bradley Sen. Cavanaugh	
Sen. Soucy	
Motion of: CONSACt	Vote: 5-0
	Iade by Second Yes No
Sen. French, Chair	
Sen. Gannon, V-Chair	
Sen. Bradley	
Sen. Cavanaugh	
Sen: Soucy	
Motion of:	Vote:
Committee Member N	Iade by Second Yes No
Sen. French, Chair	
Sen. Gannon, V-Chair	
Sen. Bradley	
Sen. Cavanaugh	
Sen. Soucy	
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Reported out by: SA. MUQ	naugh
Notes:	<u> </u>
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Senate Finance Committee EXECUTIVE SESSION

	Bill # HB 385-FN
Hearing date: N/A	
Executive session date: $05/1$	1/21
Motion of:	VOTE: 4-3
Made by Daniels Second	ed Daniels 🗌 <u>Reported</u> Daniels 🗌
<u>Senator:</u> Reagan D by Ser	<u>ator:</u> Reagan 🗌 <u>by Senato</u> r: Reagan 🗌
Giuda 🗌	Giuda 🗋 Giuda 🗌 🖉
Rosenwald	Rosenwald 🗌 Rosenwald 🖵
D'Allesandro 🗌	D'Allesandro 🗌 D'Allesandro 🗌
Morse 🗌	Morse 🗌 🦯 Morse 🗌
Hennessey	Hennessey 🗹 Hennessey 🗌
Motion of:	VOTE:
Made by Daniels Second Senator: Reagan by Set Giuda Image: Construction of the second of the s	ledDanielsReportedDanielsnator:Reaganby Senator:ReaganGiudaGiudaGiudaGiudaRosenwaldGiudaD'AllesandroD'AllesandroMorseMorseHennessey
Committee MemberPressureSenator Daniels , ChairmanSenator Reagan, Vice-ChairSenator GiudaSenator HennesseySenator RosenwaldSenator MorseSenator D'Allesandro	Yes No Reported out by Image: Second
Amendments:	

Notes: _

Committee Report

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

THE COMMITTEE ON Commerce

to which was referred HB 385-FN

AN ACT

relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

Senator Kevin Cavanaugh For the Committee

This bill would extend workers' compensation benefits for heart and lung disease up to the seventieth birthday of a firefighter. This extension seeks to incentivize more people to become volunteer firefighters. Currently, the number of volunteer firefighters has declined statewide, which has resulted in greater costs to municipalities since they're forced to hire more professional firefighters. In addition, the extension would acknowledge that lung and heart conditions might not manifest in firefighters for many years after their exposure to fires or fire-related incidents. Finally, the extension would help cover the cost of medical copays, medical equipment, and leaves of absence.

Aaron Jones 271-4063

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

COMMERCE

HB 385-FN, relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Kevin Cavanaugh for the committee.

This bill would extend workers' compensation benefits for heart and lung disease up to the seventieth birthday of a firefighter. This extension seeks to incentivize more people to become volunteer firefighters. Currently, the number of volunteer firefighters has declined statewide, which has resulted in greater costs to municipalities since they're forced to hire more professional firefighters. In addition, the extension would acknowledge that lung and heart conditions might not manifest in firefighters for many years after their exposure to fires or fire-related incidents. Finally, the extension would help cover the cost of medical copays, medical equipment, and leaves of absence.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Monday, May 17, 2021

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THE COMMITTEE ON Finance

to which was referred HB 385-FN

AN ACT relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS

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BY A VOTE OF: 4-3

Senator Cindy Rosenwald For the Committee

Deb Martone 271-4980

Docket of HB385

Bill Title: relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.

Official Docket of HB385.:

Date	Body	Description
1/10/2021	н	Introduced (in recess of) 01/06/2021 and referred to Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services HJ 2 P. 45
1/27/2021	Н	Public Hearing: 02/04/2021 09:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link To join the webinar: https://www.zoom.us/j/93123047403 / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
2/17/2021	Н	Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2021- 0307h (Vote 13-7; RC) HC 12 P. 32
2/17/2021	н	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate
2/25/2021	Н	Special Order to Regular Calendar of next Session day Without Objection HJ 4 P. 46
4/9/2021	Н	Amendment #2021-0307h : AA VV 04/09/2021 HJ 7 P. 21
4/9/2021	н	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2021-0307h: MA DV 257-117 04/09/2021 HJ 7 P. 21
4/13/2021	S	Introduced 04/08/2021 and Referred to Commerce; SJ 12
4/15/2021	S	Remote Hearing: 04/27/2021, 09:30 am; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; SC 20
5/4/2021	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 05/13/2021; Vote 5-0; CC; SC 23
5/13/2021	S	Sen. Daniels Moved to Remove HB 385 from the Consent Calendar; 05/13/2021; SJ 15
5/13/2021	S	Ought to Pass: MA, VV; Refer to Finance Rule 4-5; 05/13/2021; SJ 15
5/18/2021	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 05/20/2021; SC 24A
5/20/2021	S	Ought to Pass: MA, VV; OT3rdg; 05/20/2021; SJ 16
6/11/2021	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 06/10/2021); SJ 19
6/11/2021	н	Enrolled (in recess of) 06/10/2021
6/21/2021	н	Signed by Governor Sununu 06/18/2021; Chapter 83; Eff: 08/17/2021

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: <u>HB 385-FN</u>

Senate Committee: UNINERCE

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

<u>X</u> Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

 \underline{X} Bill version as it came to the committee

X All Calendar Notices

K Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

K Hearing Report

K Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

_____ - amendment # ______ - amendment # ______

_____ - amendment # ______ - amendment # ______

Executive Session Sheet

_ Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

_____- - amendment # ______ - amendment # ______

_____- • amendment # _______ • amendment # ______

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) (Clerk's Office)

Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

_____ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

_____ Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

as amended by the senate

as amended by the house

final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Committee Aide Senate Clerk's Office

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: <u>HB 385-</u>FN

Senate Committee: FiNANCE-2ND CommiTTEE

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Y Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

- X Bill version as it came to the committee
- _X_ All Calendar Notices
- _____ Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)
- _____ Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing
- ____ Hearing Report
- _____ Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

_____ - amendment # ______ - amendment # ______

_____ - amendment # ______ - ____ - amendment # ______

 $X_$ Executive Session Sheet

<u>X</u> Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

_____ - amendment # ______ - amendment # ______

_____ - amendment # ______ - amendment # ______

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

____ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

____ Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

_____ as amended by the senate

as amended by the house

_____ final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

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Committee Aid

<u>77/29/21</u> Date

Senate Clerk's Office _____