



150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	SENATE BILL NO. 126
AS AMENDED BY:	SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 1
SPONSOR:	Senator Ennis
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 18 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO LINE-OF-DUTY DISABILITY BENEFITS TO COVERED FIREFIGHTERS.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature of the Governor. This analysis assumes the provisions of this Act become effective January 1, 2020.
2. This Act creates a presumption that a covered firefighter who is permanently disabled from heart disease, hypertension, lung disease, or certain cancers while in the line of duty, are eligible for line-of-duty disability benefits. The covered firefighter must have been a covered firefighter for at least five years.
3. Per Title 18 of the Delaware Code, Chapter 67, §6702, the State Treasurer shall pay a benefit of \$500 per month, plus \$50 per month for each child under the age of 18, for as long as the disability continues.
4. Payments made according to this section are paid out of the State's Self Insurance Fund, which is appropriated with General Fund dollars to the Office of Management and Budget, Statewide Benefits.
5. For every covered firefighter that qualifies for disability payments under this legislation, the annual cost to the State will be \$6,000, assuming the firefighter has no children under the age of 18.
6. The Delaware Volunteers Firefighter's Association estimates that this Bill would cover approximately 1,800 firefighters (professional and volunteer).
7. There is no actuarial data available to accurately estimate the number of covered firefighters that would be impacted by this Act annually. The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' June 2018 Cancer Incidence and Mortality in Delaware Report for 2010-2014 reported an incidence rate of 506.4 per 100,000 annually or 0.5%.
8. This analysis assumes conditions identified by this Act would increase disability claims between 9 and 18 (0.5% to 1.0%) covered firefighters annually.

Estimated Cost:

Fiscal Year 2020: \$27,000 - \$54,000 (9 to 18 covered firefighters X \$3,000 – Jan. 1, 2020)

Fiscal Year 2021: \$54,000 – \$108,000 (9 to 18 covered firefighters X \$6,000)

Fiscal Year 2022: \$54,000 – \$108,000 (9 to 18 covered firefighters X \$6,000)

Prepared by Art Jenkins
Office of the Controller General