

LFC Requester:	
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 1/25/26 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB 128 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Reena Szczepanski **Agency Name and Code** EMNRD 521
Short Title: Firefighter Occupational Disease Disablement **Number:** _____
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: HB 128 amends 52-3-32 NMSA 1978 to provide additional conditions that are presumed to be proximately caused by employment as a firefighter. HB 128 specifies employment periods for certain cancers that are presumed to be proximately caused by employment as a firefighter.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 128 could increase the Forestry Division's worker's compensation claims and disability payments as employees develop cancer after exposure to toxic chemicals in wildfire smoke and other exposure as they performing their duties as wildland firefighters.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB 128 defines "firefighter" as a person who is employed as a full-time non-volunteer firefighter by the state or a local government entity and who has taken the oath prescribed for firefighters. This will include wildland firefighters employed by the Forestry Division who have taken the oath.

Forestry Division wildland firefighters and structure firefighters who respond to wildland fire are increasingly exposed to cancer-causing chemicals released when wildfires burn homes and buildings. This has led EPA and OSHA to issue warnings about exposure to toxic smoke. In addition, fatal accidents occur in the line of duty for wildland firefighters.

HB 128 will improve the compensation for all types of firefighters who develop cancer and respiratory disease by decreasing the length of service required for a determination that the illness was proximately caused by the employment. These proposed changes honor the sacrifices made by firefighters and offers them a pathway to restitution if they suffer from cancer or other physical impacts as result of their employment.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB128 does not explicitly name wildland firefighters as included in the definition of covered persons.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If HB 128 is not enacted, then firefighters will have to wait longer if they develop cancer.

AMENDMENTS