

LFC Requester:	Carlie Malone
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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: 1/23/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB128 Original Correcti
 Amendment Substitut

Sponsor: Reena Szczepanski **Agency Name and Code** 632
Short Title: Firefighter Occupational Disease Disablement **Number:** _____
Person Writing William J. Grigg
Phone: (505) 709-7346 **Email:** bill.grigg@wca.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
0	0	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
0	0	0	NA	NA

(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	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI	NA	NA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Does not duplicate/conflict with/not a companion to/does not relate to any other bill.

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

The bill amends the New Mexico Occupational Disease Disablement Law to change the number of years that a firefighter must have been employed as a firefighter for certain cancers to be presumed to have been proximately caused by employment as a firefighter. The current bill requires periods of employment as a firefighter of varying numbers of years depending on the type of cancer (*e.g.*, brain cancer after ten (10) years). The amendment makes the period of employment five (5) years for all types of cancer included in the Occupational Disease Disablement Law.

The bill also adds several additional types of covered cancers and eliminates the requirement that testicular cancer and breast cancer must be diagnosed prior to the age of forty (40) to benefit from the presumption that they were proximately caused by employment as a firefighter.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Although it can be presumed that the number of workers' compensation claims will increase with the changes to the application of the proximate-cause presumption and the additional types of cancer presumed to be caused by employment as a firefighter, in all likelihood, additional claims will be minimal. Firefighters are already able to file claims for cancer outside of the time and age requirements of the current law or for types of cancers not included in the law; these claims just do not benefit from any proximate-cause presumption. Thus, any impact on the WCA will be minimal to non-existent.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: None.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS: None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS: None.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP: None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES: None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The presumption that cancer was caused by employment as a firefighter will be narrower and so potentially apply to fewer claims. This will not prevent claims by any firefighter for cancer diagnoses, but if the claim does not fit within the current law, the firefighter will have to prove their cancer was proximately caused by employment as a firefighter.

AMENDMENTS: None.

