

SS SB 238 -- INFECTIOUS DISEASES INCURRED BY FIRE FIGHTERS

SPONSOR: Schmitt (Hinson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute specifies that after five years of service, any infectious disease, as defined in the substitute, which causes a condition of impaired health that results in a disability or the death of a fire fighter in certain circumstances will be presumed to have been incurred by the fire fighter in the line of duty as it relates to a claim for disability or death or for retirement benefits. The fire fighter must submit to an annual physical examination which includes a blood test.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is an effort to include some of the diseases that a fire fighter is likely to incur when responding to an emergency situation, especially when there is a loss of blood. It's important to provide this protection to fire fighters since they are endangering their lives to help others.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Schmitt; Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters; and Creve Coeur Fire Protection District.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill wanted to go on record as a witness.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Municipal League.