Version: As Introduced
Primary Sponsor: Rep. Patterson
Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill may result in lower workers’ compensation premiums for public employers (who pay into the State Insurance Fund) with claims related to a firefighter’s cancer contracted in the course of hazardous duty. The bill may also result in lower assessments paid by self-insured public employers that pay compensation and benefits related to such cases.

Detailed Analysis

The bill requires the Administrator of the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC) to charge all compensation and benefits paid from the State Insurance Fund on account of cancer contracted by a firefighter in the course of hazardous duty to the Surplus Fund Account created under existing law within the State Insurance Fund, rather than to a state fund employer’s experience. In general, under the bill an employer’s experience related to a firefighter’s cancer claims will not be used to calculate the employer’s workers’ compensation premiums paid into the State Insurance Fund. The bill also specifies that a self-insuring employer must deduct all compensation and benefits payable on account of cancer contracted by a firefighter in the course of hazardous duty from the paid compensation the self-insuring employer reports to the Administrator under existing law.  

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1 Please see the bill analysis for background information on the calculation of state fund employer premium rates and self-insuring employer assessments.
Fiscal effect

The bill may result in lower workers’ compensation premiums for public employers who pay into the State Insurance Fund or decreased assessments for self-insured public employers. In general, under the bill an employer’s experience related to claims of a firefighter’s cancer contracted in the course of hazardous duty will not be used to calculate the employer’s workers’ compensation premiums paid into the State Insurance Fund towards its workers’ compensation coverage. The cost of claims associated with such cancer will also be deducted from assessments paid by self-insured employers.