

March 26, 2009

S 930. WORKERS' COMP/FIREFIGHTER OCCUPAT'L DISEASES. Filed 3/25/09. *TO CREATE A PRESUMPTION THAT CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES, RESPIRATORY DISEASE, HYPERTENSION, HEART DISEASE, AND CERTAIN CANCERS ARE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES FOR FIREFIGHTERS EMPLOYED BY UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT ARE COVERED BY THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.*

Adds new subsection (b) to GS 97-53 to classify certain health conditions and impairments of firefighters as occupational diseases. Applies to firefighters working for a unit of local government. Adds new GS 97-53.1 outlining the circumstances under which those conditions and impairments are compensable under the Workers' Compensation Act. Presumes eligibility for firefighters in some situations but allows units of local government to rebut the presumption that the condition is occupational if the firefighter has cancer, heart disease, hypertension, or respiratory disease. Makes technical changes to GS 97-53(a). Effective for claims of workers' compensation benefits filed on or after the date the act becomes law.

Intro. by Berger of Franklin.

GS 97