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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- FIREFIGHTER DISABILITY

Introduced By: Senators Lombardi, Ciccone, Felag, Doyle, and Miller

Date Introduced: April 12, 2017

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 45-19 of the General Laws entitled "Relief of Injured and Deceased
2 Fire Fighters and Police Officers" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **45-19-16.1. Presumption of cardiovascular disability in the line of firefighting duty.**

4 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, any
5 firefighter, as defined in §45-19-1, who is unable to perform their duties in the fire department
6 because of an impairment of health caused by hypertension, stroke or heart disease, is presumed
7 to have suffered an in-the-line-of-duty disability, as a result of the inhalation of noxious fumes or
8 poisonous gases, physically demanding work, traumatic stress, and related factors associated with
9 firefighting; provided however, that the person benefiting from the presumption had passed a
10 physical examination upon entry into service, which failed to reveal any evidence of the
11 condition.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- FIREFIGHTER DISABILITY

1 This act would create a work disabling presumption for any firefighter who passed a
2 physical examination upon entry into service and who later contracts disabling hypertension,
3 stroke, or heart disease.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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