

**Local Mandate Fiscal Impact Estimate  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission  
2016 Regular Session**

**Part I: Measure Information**

**Bill Request #:** 1977

**Bill #:** SB 195 GA

**Bill Subject/Title:** AN ACT relating to firefighters and declaring an emergency.

**Sponsor:** Senator Robinson

Unit of Government:  City  County  Urban-County  
 Charter County  Consolidated Local  Unified Local  
Government

Office(s) Impacted: local fire departments, local firefighters

Requirement:  Mandatory  Optional

Effect on

Powers & Duties:  Modifies Existing  Adds New  Eliminates Existing

**Part II: Purpose and Mechanics**

SB 195 amends KRS 61.315 to presume firefighter deaths by certain cancers as a direct result of an act in the line of duty, if certain criteria are met. The following criteria must be met:

- active firefighter for at least five (5) years
- developed one (1) of the cancers proposed to be listed in KRS 61.315(9)(b)
- did not use tobacco products at least ten (10) years prior to the cancer diagnosis
- under age 65 at the time of death
- was not diagnosed with any cancer prior to employment as a firefighter, and
- was exposed to a known carcinogen reasonably associated with one (1) of the cancers proposed to be listed in KRS 61.315(9)(b)

SB 195 does not affect, and is separate from, workers' compensation. Any line of duty death benefit does not imply a presumption of a workers' compensation claim or benefit. However, SB 195 does not foreclose any opportunity to file for workers' compensation or other related claims.

**Part III: Fiscal Explanation, Bill Provisions, and Estimated Cost**

**SB 195 will have minimal impact on local governments and local fire departments.**

The line of duty benefits for firefighters in KRS 61.315 is \$80,000, and is provided by general fund dollars. Due to the restrictions on the bill, there is anticipation of only 1-2 claims per year. Other estimates range from 2-4 claims for line of duty death benefits. Because the qualifications in the bill limit the number of claims to approximately fewer than 5 per year and the death benefits are provided by general funds, the bill would have minimal impact on local fire departments.

**Data Source(s):** Kentucky Fire Commission; Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association; Kentucky League of Cities; LRC Staff

**Preparer:** Daniel Carter      **Reviewer:** JWN      **Date:** 2/19/16