



February 12, 2016

**SB 456 (Latvala), the Senate Firefighter Cancer Disability Presumption bill, will be considered by the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee on Tuesday, February 16 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Please Contact the Members of the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Urge them to Oppose this Unfunded State Mandate.**

- **SB 456** (Latvala) establishes a cancer disability presumption for firefighters.
- The disability presumption provides that any health condition caused by cancer resulting in disability or death of a firefighter is presumed to be suffered in the line of duty, unless the contrary is shown by competent evidence.
- The bill will result in significant increases in expenses for local governments for workers' compensation and disability pension benefits.
- A cancer disability presumption is a term or condition of employment subject to being collectively bargained by a city and its employees and, as such, should not be mandated on cities by the state. The mandate skews the entire collective bargaining process.
- Of the approximately 41,500 certified firefighters statewide, approximately 39,500 are employed by local governments resulting in almost all of the fiscal impact from the bill being on local governments.
- Under current law, if a firefighter establishes a connection between his or her job (such as being exposed to toxic substances or smoke) and a health condition related to cancer, the firefighter is entitled to workers' compensation and disability pension benefits. Establishing a disability presumption that any health condition related to cancer is presumed to be job related requires the governmental entity to prove that no aspect of the firefighter's job contributed to the health condition. This evidentiary standard is nearly impossible for a governmental entity to meet, and will result in significant increases in expenses for workers' compensation and disability pension benefits.
- The Florida League of Cities **OPPOSES** the bill as being a significant unfunded mandate.

## Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Oppose SB 456

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You can also use the League's advocacy tool [Capitol Connection](#) to e-mail members of the Committee.

Should you have any questions, please contact: Kraig Conn at [kconn@flcities.com](mailto:kconn@flcities.com); or Amber Hughes at [ahughes@flcities.com](mailto:ahughes@flcities.com) or you can reach both via phone: 850-222-9684.

**Thank you for your advocacy efforts.**