

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB299

Chairperson: Senator Lou Ann Linehan

Committee: Revenue

Date of Hearing: February 25, 2021

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 299 proposes to create the Firefighter Cancer Benefits Act.

Firefighters, both paid and volunteer, would be eligible for cancer insurance benefits if the following criteria are met: 1. Pass a physical examination which fails to reveal any evidence of cancer, and 2. Serve at least twelve consecutive months as a firefighter at any station within the State of Nebraska.

The benefits would be provided and maintained by the fire department of a municipality, rural or suburban fire protection district, airport authority, city, village, or nonprofit corporation of which such firefighter serves.

Benefits would include: 1. Diagnosis of severe cancer as defined in the bill (\$25,000); 2. Diagnosis of less severe cancer as defined in the bill (\$6,250); 3. Total disability monthly benefits for a maximum of thirty-six months (\$1,500 per month); and 4. Death benefit payable to beneficiaries of firefighter or estate of firefighter if no beneficiary is named (\$50,000).

Funds received by a firefighter as insurance payments for cancer benefits would not be subject to Nebraska income tax.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike McDonnell