

2024 Legislative Day Cards

81.new Proviso to remove the earnings limitation for retirees returning to work as instructors at the Fire Academy.

- **This proviso was requested by State Fire in their budget request and will allow the Fire Academy to hire retirees with no earnings limitation if they return to work as an instructor at the Fire Academy.**

108.16 Proviso to add firefighter positions as critical need.

- **This proviso was amended by the House of Representatives to eliminate the earnings limitation for critical need law enforcement positions. The fire service is asking for the same consideration due to critical needs with fire service staffing.**

Federal OSHA Changes

- **We are looking to placing this on the radar with our State General Assembly.**
- **These changes, as proposed, could have a negative impact on the SC Fire Service, but especially within the small combination / volunteer fire departments.**
- **The Association will be discussing this item during our upcoming visit with the House and Senate members at the federal level next week.**

Pal 800 Continued Support for funding

- **We greatly appreciate the General Assembly's work to increase funding for "user fees". We ask that the General Assembly continue to increase this funding to off-set the rising costs of these fees and much needed infrastructure.**

H.4680 (Cancer Expansion) by Rep. Mark Smith et. al. H.4680 amends the definition of firefighter, as it relates to the Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan, by including employees of South Carolina State Fire and deleting the requirement that a person must be a resident of this state when engaging in rescue, fire suppression, or related activities in this state. Additionally, the bill specifies that the plan shall provide benefits to a firefighter only if the firefighter has served in a South Carolina fire department for at least five continuous years and has been in active service within ten years of the diagnosis.

- **We want to thank our House members for their support and encourage them to continue to help us push this legislation to the finish line. H.4680 has passed the House of Representatives and has been referred to Senate Judiciary awaiting a subcommittee hearing.**

S.728 similar to H4680 (Cancer Expansion) by Senator Gustafson. S.728 amends the definition of firefighter, as it relates to the Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan, by including employees of South Carolina State Fire and deleting the requirement that a person must be a resident of this state when engaging in rescue, fire suppression, or related activities in this state. Additionally, the bill specifies that the plan shall provide benefits to a firefighter only if the firefighter has served in a South Carolina fire department for at least five continuous years and has been in active service within ten years of the diagnosis. The bill clarifies that the provision of the bill apply to firefighters diagnosed with cancer on or after July 1, 2021.

- **We want to thank our Senate and House members for their support and encourage them to continue to help us push this legislation to the finish line. S.728 has passed the Senate and has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee where the bill is scheduled to be heard in the House Labor Commerce and Industry (LCI) - Insurance Subcommittee Tuesday, April 16, 2024 1.5 hours upon adjournment of the House of Representatives in room 403 Blatt.**

S969 (Individual Income Tax Subsistence Allowance Deduction) by Senator(s) Alexander and Peeler. S969 increases the individual income tax subsistence allowance deduction for full-time firefighters and other first responders from \$8 to \$16 per day beginning in tax year 2024. The bill also increases the maximum deduction for volunteer firefighters, rescue squad members, hazardous materials response team members and others who meet the volunteer activity requirements as specified in the statute from \$3000 to \$6000.

- **We want to thank our Senate and House members for their support and encourage them to continue to help us push this legislation to the finish line. The Senate has passed the legislation and the House is taking it up this week in Committee. S.969 is scheduled to be heard in the Ways and Means - Use and Income Tax Legislative Subcommittee Wednesday, April 17, 2024 @ 9:30am in room 427 Blatt.**