

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND SHEILA KUEHL

June 18, 2019

Support for Assembly Bill 1400

Over recent years, Los Angeles County has seen its fair share of devastating fires that threatened lives and livelihoods. The Woolsey fire, the Rye fire, and the Creek fire are the most notable. These three fires took place within one year of each other, and collectively burned more than 118,000 acres. The Woolsey fire was undoubtedly the most destructive fire in Los Angeles County history, having burned over 96,000 acres alone. Approximately 800 L.A. County firefighters were deployed to the Woolsey fire, along with some 3,000 firefighters from dozens of agencies around the United States.

Our firefighters work tirelessly to protect the public, and we have seen their bravery and resilience first hand over recent years. In addition to the work of our firefighters, there are other fire department personnel that work alongside them. These individuals are often exposed to similar workplace hazards that our firefighters are exposed to. Under current law, presumptions of compensability for cancer related conditions under workers compensation have been granted only to active firefighters

Assembly Bill 1400 (Kamlager-Dove) grants certain non-firefighter employees of a fire department the right to a presumption that cancer is a work-related condition for purposes of making a workers' compensation claim. The bill does this by replacing the existing description of the employees who are eligible to benefit from this presumption. The existing phrase "active firefighting members" will be replaced with the phrase "Fire service personnel with exposure to active fires or health hazards resulting from firefighting operations."

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Ridley-Thomas _____

Kuehl _____

Barger _____

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Assembly Bill 1400 considers those whose job duties cause them to be regularly exposed to active fires or health hazards directly resulting from firefighting operations. It is imperative that we support all of our fire department personnel who work tirelessly to protect lives and livelihoods.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to send a five signature letter to the Governor and the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation in support of Assembly Bill 1400 (Kamlager-Dove).

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