

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

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SENATE BILL 97

Short Title: Support Firefighters Fighting Cancer. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Moffitt, Daniel, and Burgin (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

February 17, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT INCLUDING DEATH DUE TO STOMACH CANCER IN THE LIST OF
3 FIREFIGHTER DEATHS MEETING THE DEFINITION OF KILLED IN THE LINE OF
4 DUTY UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES' DEATH BENEFITS ACT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 143-166.2(6) reads as rewritten:

7 "(6) Killed in the line of duty. – This term shall apply to all of the following deaths:

8 ...

9 e. When the death of a firefighter occurs as a direct and proximate result
10 of any of the following cancers that are occupationally related to
11 firefighting, that firefighter is presumed to have been killed in the line
12 of duty:

- 13 1. Mesothelioma.
- 14 2. Testicular cancer.
- 15 3. Cancer of the small intestine.
- 16 4. Esophageal cancer.
- 17 5. Oral cavity cancer.
- 18 6. Pharynx cancer.
- 19 7. Cancer of the stomach, also known as gastric cancer."

20 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
21 State Treasurer the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in recurring funds for each
22 year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to be used for benefits payable under the Public Safety
23 Employees' Death Benefits Act related to the implementation of this act.

24 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025, and applies to qualifying deaths
25 occurring on or after that date.

