

year, was referred to the Retirement Committee and, with this amendment, was advanced, I believe without any dissenting votes. This bill deals with the issue of firefighters who eventually end up getting cancer and what the amendment says, basically, is that a firefighter, for purposes of their pension, if the firefighter has, initially upon entering the fire force, undergone a physical examination that indicates that there is no evidence of cancer, that the firefighter was exposed during the course of his or her employment to a carcinogen and the carcinogen is identified as a type that causes that specific type of cancer that the firefighter has, that then there is...that that constitutes prima facie evidence that the cause of the firefighter's cancer was exposure to that type of carcinogen during his or her employment as a firefighter for the purposes of the pension, the pension plan as far as retirement goes. Essentially what this is doing, and there's a handout that is coming out right now that indicates that in Nebraska, if you look at, and I've nighlited the pertinent portion, what the handout has is a comparison of firefighters and causes of death as opposed to the population as a whole and the causes of death that apply to the population as a whole, and the pertinent information on this handout falls under number two, which is cancer, and that is that between 1984 and 1993, in that ten-year period of deaths that are attributed to cancer among firefighters, 32 percent of deaths that can be attributed to a cause were caused by cancer. Among the population as a whole among males, it's a little...it's 22.7 percent. So the chances of a firefighter contracting cancer and ultimately leading to that firefighter's death is a little less than 50 percent greater than that of the population as a whole, and I think just from common sense you can sit back and recognize that firefighters, just because of the nature of their work, because of their exposure to smoke, and particularly because of their exposure to chemicals that are known carcinogens in a fire at a plant or something of that sort where there's a chemical that has been spilled that has caught fire, the firefighter is exposed to that and I think it's just common sense tells you that that is going to be, in a number of cases at least, the cause of cancer. And what this amendment does is recognize that as a fact when determining what the...if the cause of death or injury was work related. And the original bill, by the way, that I brought would have made it a rebuttable presumption that it was the cause, that exposure, after leaping through the hoops that the amendment outlines, that exposure would be a rebuttable