

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-349 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE FIREFIGHTERS CANCER

Title: RELIEF FUND.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/3/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor & Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for this bill is to make a change to the reporting of the Firefighters' Cancer Relief Fund to the Labor & Public Employees Committee, instead of the Public Safety Committee, in order to reflect the fact that the Firefighters' Cancer Relief Fund Advisory Committee is administered by the staff of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. It also makes minor revisions to the existing statutes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Erick Russell, State Treasurer-The Office of the Treasurer: Mr. Russell submitted testimony in support of SB 349. They stated CT firefighters put themselves in harm's way to protect our communities and the risks they face don't end when the fires are extinguished. When a fire fighter contracts cancer because of service, the cancer relief fund helps by ensuring municipalities are reimbursed for benefits paid. This provides meaningful financial support to firefighters and their families. This bill makes updates to the reporting structure of the program to ensure that oversight reflects the programs current scope. They state this would be done by repealing a duplicative report and aligning oversight under the Firefighters Cancer Relief Fund Advisory Committee. The content of the treasurers report will also be updated to now include the balance of the account, projected and actual expenditures and projected and actual sources of revenue. They state that these updates under SB 349 will streamline the process, improve financial transparency, and ensure participating municipalities have timely information about the financial health of the program.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Peter Brown, President, UPFFA of CT and, Jeffrey Tomchik, Political Director, UPFFA: Both submitted testimony in support of SB 349. They stated it makes important revisions to the reporting requirements and financial oversight provisions of the Connecticut's Firefighter Cancer Relief Programs. The treasurer and his team have been integral part of implementing the program and have worked diligently with the Connecticut State Firefighters Association to carry out the statutory requirements of section 7-313p. The revisions do not alter the substance of the benefits provided by the bill they just make technical adjustments. The bill updates reporting timelines to ensure achievable compliance. It clarifies that the annual report should include a balance of the account and removes demographic reporting requirements. The definition of fire fighter is updated to explicitly include fire marshals, investigators, and inspectors who are frequently exposed to the same carcinogens on active fire scenes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None provided.

Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez

Date: 03/16/2026