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Legislative Document

No. 305

S.P. 131

In Senate, February 8, 2021

**An Act To Include Forest Rangers and Forest Fire Prevention
Specialists in the Bureau of Forestry's Forest Protection Unit in the
Laws Concerning Cancer Suffered by Firefighters**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec.

Cosponsored by Senators: CURRY of Waldo, DAVIS of Piscataquis, DESCHAMBAULT of York, DIAMOND of Cumberland, MIRAMANT of Knox, WOODSOME of York,

Representatives: NADEAU of Winslow, STEARNS of Guilford.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 39-A MRSA §328-B, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2015, c. 373, §1, is further amended to read:

B. "Employed" means to be employed as an active duty firefighter or by the Office of the State Fire Marshal or by the forest protection unit within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry or to be an active member of a volunteer fire association with no compensation other than injury and death benefits.

Sec. 2. 39-A MRSA §328-B, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2015, c. 373, §1, is further amended to read:

C. "Firefighter" means a member of a municipal fire department or volunteer fire association whose duties include the extinguishment of fires or an investigator or sergeant in the Office of the State Fire Marshal or a forest ranger or forest fire prevention specialist in the forest protection unit within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry.

Sec. 3. 39-A MRSA §328-B, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2015, c. 373, §2, is further amended to read:

6. Length of service. In order to qualify for the presumption under subsection 2, the firefighter must have been employed as a firefighter for 5 years and, except for an investigator or sergeant in the Office of the State Fire Marshal or a forest ranger or forest fire prevention specialist in the forest protection unit within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry, regularly responded to firefighting or emergency calls.

SUMMARY

This bill adds forest rangers and forest fire prevention specialists in the forest protection unit within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry who have contracted cancer to the list of firefighters under the workers' compensation laws whose cancer is presumed to be caused by their firefighting duties.