

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-

41

OFFERED BY MR. KELLER OF PENNSYLVANIA

Strike all of the text and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. FIREFIGHTER SPECIAL CLAIMS UNIT.

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 81 of title 5, United
3 States Code (known as the “Federal Employees’ Com-
4 pensation Act”) is amended by inserting after section
5 8152 the following:

6 “§ 8153. Firefighter Special Claims Unit.

7 “There is established in the Office of Workers’ Com-
8 pensation Programs of the Department of Labor the Fire-
9 fighter Special Claims Unit. The Firefighter Special
10 Claims Unit shall be responsible for processing any claim
11 relating to occupational disease filed by a Federal fire-
12 fighter, including a wildland firefighter or forestry techni-
13 cian, on or after the date of enactment of this Act under
14 this chapter.”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
16 chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by
17 inserting after the item relating to section 8152 the fol-
18 lowing:

“8153. Firefighter Special Claims Unit.”.

1 **SEC. 2. GAO REPORT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
4 of the United States shall submit to the Committee on
5 Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and
6 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
7 sions of the Senate a report on the health care benefits
8 and treatment under chapter 81 of title 5, United States
9 Code (known as the “Federal Employees’ Compensation
10 Act”) provided to Federal firefighters with the following
11 conditions:

- 12 (1) Bladder cancer.
- 13 (2) Brain cancer.
- 14 (3) Breast cancer.
- 15 (4) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- 16 (5) Colorectal cancer.
- 17 (6) Esophageal cancer.
- 18 (7) Kidney cancer.
- 19 (8) Leukemias.
- 20 (9) Lung cancer.
- 21 (10) Mesothelioma.
- 22 (11) Multiple myeloma.
- 23 (12) Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.
- 24 (13) Prostate cancer.
- 25 (14) Skin cancer (melanoma).

1 (15) A sudden cardiac event or stroke while, or
2 not later than 24 hours after, engaging in activities
3 related to the employee's occupation.

4 (16) Testicular cancer.

5 (17) Thyroid cancer.

6 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required under sub-
7 section (a) shall include—

8 (1) a description of any known barriers to the
9 delivery of health care to Federal firefighters sub-
10 mitting an occupational claim under chapter 81 of
11 title 5, United States Code (known as the “Federal
12 Employees’ Compensation Act”), including denials of
13 claims and delays in the processing of claims, and
14 the degree to which such barriers impact the ability
15 of firefighters with legitimate medical needs, includ-
16 ing firefighters in rural areas, to access treatment
17 for diseases described in subsection (a);

18 (2) an evaluation of the claims submitted by
19 firefighters and survivors under such Act that have
20 been approved, denied, or are waiting for a final de-
21 termination, including—

22 (A) the percentages of claims approved;

23 and

24 (B) the average amount of time it takes

25 for a claim to be resolved; and

1 (3) a description of the standard that the De-
2 partment of Labor is using to determine causation
3 with respect to such claims, including information on
4 how the Department created such standard and the
5 frequency with which the Department regularly up-
6 dates the standard to take into account the latest
7 scientific research, if at all.

