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Senate

State of Minnesota

H.F. No. 2746, First Engrossment – Hometown Heroes

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Date: April 6, 2022

Overview

The bill contains a variety of edits to the Hometown Heroes assistance program which the legislature enacted in 2021 to provide monetary support to firefighters diagnosed with a critical illness, develop a psychotherapy program customized to address emotional trauma experienced by firefighters, and to provide annual training to firefighters on critical illnesses such as cancer, heart disease and emotional trauma.

Summary

Section 1, subdivision 1 defines “critical illness” as “cardiac disease and cancer as well as other illnesses covered by a policy of insurance issued by an insurer in compliance with chapter 60A.”

Subdivision 2 clarifies which firefighters with critical illness diagnoses are eligible for payments from the monetary assistance program. Contains other clarifying language.

Subdivision 3 clarifies that a firefighter is eligible for financial payments for a critical illness only if the diagnosis was made on or after August 1, 2021. A firefighter has 12 months from the date of diagnosis to apply for monetary benefits.

Section 2 transfers responsibility for issuing grants to the Minnesota Firefighter Initiative to manage the Hometown Heroes assistance program from the Department of Public Safety’s Office of Justice Programs to the State Fire Marshal.