A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF FIREFIGHTERS EMPLOYED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE DIVISION OF FIRE
PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN CERTAIN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov/.)

Wildfire Matters Review Committee. Currently, certain employers of firefighters are required to maintain insurance to provide benefits to a firefighter if he or she has a heart and circulatory malfunction in connection with a stressful or strenuous activity related to an emergency response activity. In addition, certain employers of
firefighters may make contributions into a multiple employer health trust established to provide benefits to volunteer firefighters diagnosed with certain covered cancers.

Beginning July 1, 2020, the bill adds the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety (division) to the definition of "employer" for the purpose of providing benefits for a heart and circulatory malfunction and to the definition of "employer" for the purpose of providing benefits for certain covered cancers.

In addition, beginning July 1, 2020, the bill expands the definition of "state trooper" for purposes of the public employees' retirement association to include all current and future employees of the division that are classified as a firefighter I through firefighter VII class titles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-301, amend (1) as follows:

29-5-301. Definitions. As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Employer" means a municipality, special district, fire authority, or county improvement district that employs one or more firefighters. BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020, "EMPLOYER" ALSO MEANS THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1201. "Employer" does not include a power authority created pursuant to section 29-1-204 or a municipally owned utility.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-402, amend (3) as follows:

29-5-402. Definitions. As used in this part 4, unless the context otherwise requires:

(3) "Employer" means a municipality, special district, fire authority, or county improvement district that employs one or more firefighters, part-time firefighters, or volunteer firefighters. BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020, "EMPLOYER" ALSO MEANS THE DIVISION OF FIRE
PREVENTION AND CONTROL CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1201.

"Employer" does not include a power authority created pursuant to section 29-1-204 or a municipally owned utility.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-51-101, amend (46) as follows:

24-51-101. Definitions. As used in this article 51, unless the context otherwise requires and except as otherwise defined in part 17 of this article 51:

(46) "State trooper" means an employee of the Colorado state patrol, Colorado bureau of investigation, or successors to these agencies, who is vested with the powers of peace officers as provided for in section 24-33.5-409. In addition, for members who were not members, inactive members, or retirees on December 31, 2019, "state trooper" includes a county sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff, noncertified deputy sheriff, or detention officer hired by a local government division employer on or after January 1, 2020, and a corrections officer classified as I through IV hired by a state division employer on or after January 1, 2020. BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020, "STATE TROOPER" ALSO INCLUDES AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY WHO IS CLASSIFIED IN THE FIREFIGHTER I THROUGH FIREFIGHTER VII CLASS TITLES.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.