

Legislature - First Session - 2019

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB721

Chairperson: Senator Justin Wayne

Committee: Urban Affairs

Date of Hearing: March 05, 2019

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 721 is designed to fill a gap in the disability benefits applicable to Firefighters in the State of Nebraska by allowing Firefighters disabled in the line of duty or the surviving spouses of Firefighters suffering death in the line of duty to have access to employer sponsored healthcare on the same basis as active employees. This bill would require employers of paid Firefighters to allow those who are disabled in the line of duty to pay the same premium and receive group health coverage that is offered to persons employed as active employees. If the disabled Firefighter becomes eligible for other group health coverage through another employer or through Medicare, their eligibility under this provision ceases. The same concepts would apply to the surviving spouse of a Firefighter who suffers a duty related death. Often times, the cost of health insurance for a disabled Firefighter can exceed 50% of their annual disability pension amount and this bill seeks to rectify this gap in the benefit structure.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Brett Lindstrom