

House Concurrent Resolution 2

Sponsored by Representative GRAYBER (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Declares the urgent need to find safer gear for firefighters. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.3).

Declares a commitment to the health and safety of firefighters and to finding an urgent solution to the problem of firefighting personal protective gear that contains cancer-causing chemicals.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the State of Oregon has long benefited from the heroic, selfless and dedicated service of its firefighters; and

Whereas the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded in 2024 that firefighting is a Group 1 carcinogen; and

Whereas the Group 1 designation—based on research, data and examination of firefighting processes, equipment and personal protective gear—concludes that exposure to known carcinogens is present in every active fire scenario, regardless of the type of gear worn by firefighters; and

Whereas the Group 1 designation indicates that the profession of firefighting is as dangerous to human life as cigarette smoking; and

Whereas exposure to an increasingly complex array of chemicals over the last 30 years has increased a firefighter's likelihood of contracting occupational cancer; and

Whereas structural and vehicular firefighting exposes firefighters to complete and incomplete products of combustion, both of which have long-term and short-term health effects; and

Whereas perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are widely used, long-lasting chemical compounds, components of which break down very slowly over time; and

Whereas countless studies have shown that PFAS are carcinogens, including as a product of incomplete combustion when PFAS compounds are present; and

Whereas the State of Oregon has recognized cancer as an occupational presumption for firefighters since 2009, assuming that the occupation and duties predetermine an increased risk of acquiring cancer; and

Whereas in 2023, it was determined that the personal protective gear worn by firefighters contains cancer-causing PFAS; and

Whereas there is no effective current substitute for the cancer-causing PFAS used in the manufacturing process for firefighting personal protective gear; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, declare our support for this state's heroic and dedicated firefighters, and we declare our commitment to ensuring their health and safety; and be it further

Resolved, That we support continued research into the effects of PFAS, and we stress the ur-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

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1 gency of finding industry solutions for manufacturing firefighting personal protective gear that does
2 not contain PFAS; and be it further

3 Resolved, That as soon as suitable non-PFAS firefighting personal protective gear is available,
4 the Legislative Assembly will enact legislation banning the future use of PFAS in personal protec-
5 tive gear and ensuring that personal protective gear containing PFAS is quickly replaced through-
6 out this state.

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