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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 349**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF FUND.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes changes to the state treasurer's reporting requirements on programs that provide benefits to firefighters with cancer.

Current law requires the treasurer to issue separate annual reports on the status of the Firefighters Cancer Relief Program (due each January) and a separate program that provides workers' compensation-like benefits to firefighters with cancer (due each July). The bill combines these two reporting requirements into one annual report, with the first combined report due by October 1, 2026. It also changes the report's required contents to include the projected and actual (1) expenditures (rather than participation) for each program and (2) income sources for the firefighters cancer relief account (rather than certain demographic information about the firefighters receiving benefits).

The bill also (1) requires the treasurer to submit the report to the Labor and Public Employees Committee (in addition to the Firefighters Cancer Relief Fund Advisory Committee, which receives it under current law) and (2) makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Related Bill***

sHB 5460 (File 331), reported favorably by the Public Safety and Security Committee, generally shifts the administration of the firefighters cancer relief account from the state treasurer to the state comptroller, including the responsibility for (1) reimbursing employers

that provide benefits to firefighters diagnosed with cancer, (2) remitting wage replacement benefits, (3) annual reports on the account's status, and (4) payment processing for certain firefighters entitled to wage replacement benefits from the Connecticut State Firefighters Association.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/05/2026)