



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MAY 13 2014

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

Last year, in vetoing AB 1373, I expressed concern in enacting legislation prior to the availability of more research and fiscal data on the risks of death from cancer and other job related diseases on firefighters. The results of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health study on mortality and cancer incidence on US firefighters are now available for review and provide better data on the fiscal impacts of this bill. Importantly, a review of this data anticipates that fewer than 20 cases a year throughout the state would be affected if the provisions only apply to diseases diagnosed during active service.

Therefore, I am signing AB 1035 to extend the time period to file a claim for workers' compensation benefits from 240 weeks to 420 weeks after date of injury, and to require a claim to be filed within one year after the date of death. The bill has been drafted to apply only if the date of injury is during active service, as defined in Section 5412 of the Labor Code, and also contains a sunset date to allow us to examine additional data collected by the Division of Workers' Compensation before reauthorizing the statute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.