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Governor



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To the Honorable Speaker and Members,
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning, without my approval as to Section 1, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1833 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to occupational diseases affecting firefighters."

Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1833 creates a rebuttable presumption that certain heart problems, cancer and infectious diseases are occupational diseases for firefighters that are covered by industrial insurance. I strongly support this law. The legislature's statement of intent in Section 1, however, makes broad generalizations about the incidence of cardiovascular disease. In an effort to avoid the unintended interpretations of broad generalizations, Section 2 of the bill has been carefully crafted to define specific "firefighting activities" that are related to occupational diseases.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Section 1 Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1833.

With the exception of Section 1, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1833 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor