

SENATE, No. 4201

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 2, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Corrado

SYNOPSIS

Mandates access to cancer screenings for firefighters through health care benefits plan or program provided by public employer.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/2/2021)

1 AN ACT mandating access to cancer screenings for firefighters
2 through health care benefits plan or program provided by the
3 public employer, and supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

5
6 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

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9 1. a. A firefighter employed as a full-time paid employee of a
10 fire department or unit of this State or a political subdivision of this
11 State shall be provided a cancer screening examination conducted
12 by a physician not less than three years after the start of the
13 firefighter's employment as a firefighter and every three years
14 thereafter during the course of the firefighter's employment. The
15 examination shall include screening for, at a minimum and when
16 applicable, the following cancers:

- 17 (1) colon;
18 (2) lung;
19 (3) bladder;
20 (4) oral;
21 (5) thyroid;
22 (6) skin;
23 (7) blood;
24 (8) breast;
25 (9) cervical
26 (10) testicular; and
27 (11) prostate.

28 b. All costs associated with screenings provided under this
29 section shall be borne by the firefighter's health care benefits plan
30 or program provided by the firefighter's employer, including a plan
31 or program through the State Health Benefits Program, an insurance
32 fund, joint insurance fund, or in any other manner. No co-payment,
33 deductible, coinsurance, or any out-of-pocket expense shall be
34 required for such examinations.

35
36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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39 STATEMENT

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41 This bill mandates access to cancer screenings for full-time paid
42 firefighters in this State. The bill includes screenings for colon,
43 lung, bladder, oral, thyroid, skin, blood, breast, cervical, testicular,
44 and prostate cancers. The first screening will take place within the
45 first three years of employment and a firefighter is then entitled to a
46 screening every three years thereafter. The cost of the screenings
47 will be covered by the health care benefits plan or program

1 provided to the firefighter by the public employer. The bill will
2 take effect immediately.

3 This bill recognizes that New Jersey has established occupational
4 cancer as a presumptive disease for firefighters. Firefighters are
5 diagnosed with cancer at a higher rate than the general population.
6 Prevention and early detection are the best defenses against a cancer
7 diagnosis.