

SENATE, No. 2890

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators McKeon, Moriarty and Burgess

SYNOPSIS

Mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for professional firefighters not enrolled in SHBP, but who are eligible for SHBP by virtue of public employment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/8/2024)

1 AN ACT mandating access to periodic cancer screening
2 examinations for full-time paid firefighters not enrolled in the
3 State Health Benefits Program, and amending P.L.2021, c.478.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.478 (C.52:14-17.29ii) is amended to
9 read as follows:

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

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

29 b. Subsection a. of this section shall apply to a firefighter
30 enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program as occupational
31 coverage. For the purpose of this subsection, employment as a full-
32 time paid employee of a fire department or unit of this State or a
33 political subdivision of this State shall be a pre-existing condition.

34 c. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or
35 regulation to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2023 and for each
36 plan year thereafter, a public employer that does not participate in
37 the State Health Benefits Program shall provide health care benefits
38 coverage for its employees that offers cancer screening
39 examinations consistent with the requirement of subsection a. of
40 this section. A public employer that does not participate in the
41 State Health Benefits Program shall be eligible for
42 **【reimbursement】** payment from the State for **【its】** the cost of
43 providing benefits coverage for such examinations upon proof
44 satisfactory to the Department of the Treasury that the examination
45 has been performed by a physician; provided, however, at no time
46 shall the cost being **【reimbursed】** remitted to the public employer
47 by the State for the full examination required under subsection a. of
48 this section exceed \$1,250 per three-year period for each firefighter.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or
2 regulation to the contrary, beginning on the effective date of P.L. ,
3 c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a public employer
4 that participates in the State Health Benefits Program shall provide
5 coverage for cancer screening examinations consistent with the
6 requirement of subsection a. of this section for an employee who is
7 eligible for other health care coverage and waives coverage under
8 the State Health Benefits Program to which the employee is entitled
9 by virtue of employment with the employer. Such public employer
10 shall be eligible for payment from the State for the cost of providing
11 such examinations upon proof satisfactory to the Department of the
12 Treasury that the examination has been performed by a physician;
13 provided, however, at no time shall the cost being remitted to the
14 public employer by the State for the full examination required under
15 subsection a. of this section exceed \$1,250 per three-year period for
16 each firefighter.

17 No co-payment, deductible, coinsurance, or out-of-pocket
18 expense shall be required for such examinations.

19 A public employer shall maintain adequate records to facilitate
20 the reimbursement authorized pursuant to this subsection.

21 For the purpose of this subsection, employment as a full-time
22 paid employee of a fire department or unit of this State or a political
23 subdivision of this State shall be a pre-existing condition. There
24 shall be an appropriation from the State General Fund in each
25 annual appropriations act of such funds as necessary for the
26 purposes of this section.

27 (cf: P.L.2022, c.109, s.1)

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill mandates access to periodic cancer screening
35 examinations for firefighters who waive employer-sponsored health
36 care coverage, but are eligible for coverage under the State Health
37 Benefits Program (SHBP) by virtue of employment with a public
38 employer that participates in the SHBP. Current law entitles a
39 firefighter enrolled in the SHBP, or a firefighter employed by a
40 public employer that does not participate in the SHBP, to a cancer
41 screening examinations every three years and specifies that the
42 State will reimburse providers or such public employers an amount
43 not to exceed \$1,250 per three-year period. The bills extends these
44 reimbursement provisions to firefighters who waive employer-
45 sponsored health care coverage, but are eligible for coverage under
46 the SHBP by virtue of employment with a public employer that
47 participates in the SHBP.