

P.L. 2024, CHAPTER 15, *approved June 3, 2024*  
Assembly, No. 3939

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.

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

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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

**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 **[reimbursement]** payment from the State for **[its]** the cost of  
2 providing benefits coverage for such examinations upon proof  
3 satisfactory to the Department of the Treasury that the examination  
4 has been performed by a physician; provided, however, at no time  
5 shall the cost being **[reimbursed]** remitted to the public employer  
6 by the State for the full examination required under subsection a. of  
7 this section exceed \$1,250 per three-year period for each firefighter.

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

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

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

28 For the purpose of this subsection, employment as a full-time  
29 paid employee of a fire department or unit of this State or a political  
30 subdivision of this State shall be a pre-existing condition. There  
31 shall be an appropriation from the State General Fund in each  
32 annual appropriations act of such funds as necessary for the  
33 purposes of this section.

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

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36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### 37 38 39 STATEMENT

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41 This bill mandates access to periodic cancer screening  
42 examinations for firefighters who waive employer-sponsored health  
43 care coverage, but are eligible for coverage under the State Health  
44 Benefits Program (SHBP) by virtue of employment with a public  
45 employer that participates in the SHBP. Current law entitles a  
46 firefighter enrolled in the SHBP, or a firefighter employed by a  
47 public employer that does not participate in the SHBP, to a cancer  
48 screening examinations every three years and specifies that the  
49 State will reimburse providers or such public employers an amount

1 not to exceed \$1,250 per three-year period. The bills extends these  
2 reimbursement provisions to firefighters who waive employer-  
3 sponsored health care coverage, but are eligible for coverage under  
4 the SHBP by virtue of employment with a public employer that  
5 participates in the SHBP.

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