

# SENATE, No. 2743

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for professional firefighters not enrolled in SHBP; makes appropriation.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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, amending P.L.2021, c.478, and  
4 making an appropriation.  
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
7 *of New Jersey:*  
8

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

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

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

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

36 c. The State Health Benefits Commission shall establish a  
37 program to cover the cost of cancer screening examinations  
38 pursuant to subsection a. of this section for a firefighter who is not  
39 enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program when such  
40 examinations are not otherwise covered by the health care benefits  
41 plan or program provided to the firefighter by the employer or by  
42 other health care coverage. The program shall require the  
43 submission of such information by the provider and the firefighter  
44 as shall be necessary to make a determination on coverage.  
45 Payment shall be made directly to providers. The program shall

**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 make such payments from funds specifically appropriated to the  
2 commission for this purpose. At no time shall the cost being  
3 reimbursed to the provider for a cancer screening examination  
4 exceed \$1,250. No co-payment, deductible, coinsurance, or out-of-  
5 pocket expense shall be required for such examinations. For the  
6 purpose of this subsection, employment as a full-time paid  
7 employee of a fire department or unit of this State or a political  
8 subdivision of this State shall be a pre-existing condition. There  
9 shall be an appropriation from the State General Fund in each  
10 annual appropriations act of such funds as necessary for the  
11 purposes of this section.

12 (cf: P.L.2021, c.478, s.1)

13

14 2. There is appropriated from the State General Fund to the State  
15 Health Benefits Commission in the Department of the Treasury  
16 \$2,000,000 for the purposes of subsection c. of section 1 of  
17 P.L.2021, c.478 (C.52:14-17.29ii).

18

19 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

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## 22 STATEMENT

23

24 This bill mandates access to periodic cancer screening  
25 examinations for firefighters who are not enrolled in the State  
26 Health Benefits Program (SHBP). Under current law, a firefighter  
27 enrolled in SHBP is entitled to a cancer screening examination  
28 every three years. This bill expands the access to examinations for  
29 firefighters who have a different health care plan through their  
30 employer or receive health insurance coverage in any other manner.  
31 The bill creates a special program to be administered by the State  
32 Health Benefits Commission and appropriates \$2 million to  
33 effectuate the purposes of the bill.

34 The bill specifies that there should be no out-of-pocket cost to  
35 the firefighter and the program will pay the provider directly,  
36 eliminating a need to reimburse the firefighter for such costs.  
37 Additionally, the bill specifies that payment to the provider for  
38 reimbursement should not exceed \$1,250.

39 The bill will take effect January 1, 2023.