

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4649**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ROBERT AUTH**

**District 39 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman WILLIAM B. SAMPSON, IV**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Myhre and Rumpf**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides access to periodic cancer screening examinations for volunteer firefighters through SHBP physicians and other providers.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2024)**

1 AN ACT concerning access to periodic cancer screening  
2 examinations for volunteer firefighters and supplementing Title  
3 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. A volunteer firefighter serving in a fire district of this  
9 State, or a fire department, unit, or company of or in this State or a  
10 political subdivision of this State, shall be provided a cancer  
11 screening examination conducted by a physician who participates in  
12 the State Health Benefits Program network not less than three years  
13 after the start of the firefighter's service as a volunteer firefighter  
14 and every three years thereafter during the course of the firefighter's  
15 volunteer service. The examination shall include screening for, at a  
16 minimum and when 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. For the purpose of this subsection, service as an unpaid  
29 firefighter in any fire district with a volunteer fire department or  
30 wherein there shall exist one or more incorporated volunteer fire  
31 companies affording fire protection to the fire district, or service as  
32 an unpaid firefighter for a fire department, unit, or company of or in  
33 this State or a political subdivision of this State, shall be a pre-  
34 existing condition.

35 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or  
36 regulation to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2025 and for each  
37 plan year thereafter, physicians who participate in the State Health  
38 Benefits Program network shall offer cancer screening  
39 examinations to volunteer firefighters consistent with the  
40 requirement of subsection a. of this section. Such physicians or  
41 other providers shall be eligible for payment from the State for the  
42 cost of providing such examinations upon proof satisfactory to the  
43 Department of the Treasury; provided, however, at no time shall the  
44 cost being remitted to the physician or other provider by the State  
45 for the full examination required under subsection a. of this section  
46 exceed \$1,250 in the aggregate per three-year period for each  
47 firefighter.

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

3 d. Any fire district of this State, or a fire department, unit, or  
4 company of or in this State or a political subdivision of this State,  
5 that relies on services from volunteer firefighters shall maintain  
6 adequate records to facilitate the payment authorized pursuant to  
7 this section.

8 e. There shall be an appropriation from the State General Fund  
9 in each annual appropriations act of such funds as necessary for the  
10 purposes of this section.

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12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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17 This bill requires access to periodic cancer screening  
18 examinations for volunteer firefighters serving in fire district of this  
19 State, or a fire department, unit, or company of or in this State or a  
20 political subdivision of this State, without cost-sharing.

21 Under the bill, physicians who participate in the State Health  
22 Benefits Program network will be required to offer these periodic  
23 examinations to volunteer firefighters and then a physician or other  
24 provider may request payment from the State for the provision of  
25 services not to exceed \$1,250 in the aggregate per three-year period  
26 for each firefighter. According to the bill, fire district of this State,  
27 or a fire department, unit or company of or in this State or a  
28 political subdivision of this State, which relies on services from  
29 volunteer firefighters must maintain adequate records to facilitate  
30 the payment.

31 Current law entitles paid firefighters enrolled in the State Health  
32 Benefits Program and paid firefighters eligible for enrollment in the  
33 State Health Benefits Program to periodic cancer screening  
34 examinations every three years without cost-sharing. By law, the  
35 State will reimburse public employers in an amount not to exceed  
36 \$1,250 per three-year period for each firefighter.

37 This bill extends the reimbursement provisions available to paid  
38 firefighters under current law to unpaid firefighters serving in any  
39 fire district with a volunteer fire department or wherein there exists  
40 one or more incorporated volunteer fire companies affording fire  
41 protection to the fire district, or any fire department, unit, or  
42 company of or in the State or a political subdivision of this State.