

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: No

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/MM

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.

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

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)

35

36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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38

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STATEMENT

40

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.

CHAPTER 15

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

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

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

C.52:14-17.29ii Full-time firefighters to be screened for cancer.

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

- (1) colon;
- (2) lung;
- (3) bladder;
- (4) oral;
- (5) thyroid;
- (6) skin;
- (7) blood;
- (8) breast;
- (9) cervical
- (10) testicular; and
- (11) prostate.

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

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

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, beginning on the effective date of P.L.2024, c.15, a public employer that participates in the State Health Benefits Program shall provide coverage for cancer screening examinations consistent with the requirement of subsection a. of this section for an employee who is eligible for other health care coverage and waives coverage under the State Health Benefits Program to which the employee is entitled by virtue of employment with the employer. Such public employer shall be eligible for payment from the State for the cost of providing such examinations upon proof satisfactory to the Department of the Treasury that the examination has been performed by a physician; provided, however, at no time shall the cost being remitted

to the public employer by the State for the full examination required under subsection a. of this section exceed \$1,250 per three-year period for each firefighter.

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

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

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

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved June 3, 2024.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3939

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

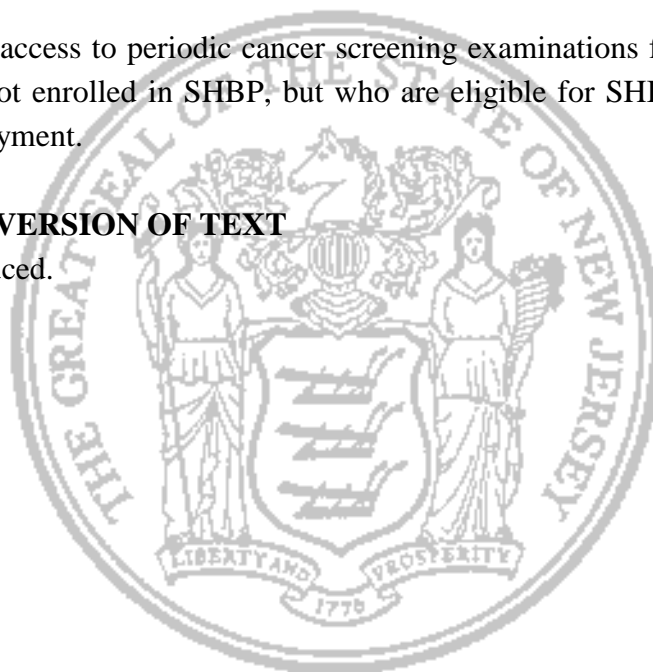
**Assemblywomen McCoy, Pintor Marin, Carter, Senators McKeon,
Moriarty and Burgess**

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: 5/13/2024)

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;
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- 23 (6) skin;
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- 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

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 shall the cost being **[reimbursed]** remitted to the public employer
2 by the State for the full examination required under subsection a. of
3 this section exceed \$1,250 per three-year period for each firefighter.

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

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

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

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

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

31

32 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

33

34

STATEMENT

35

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

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3939

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 14, 2024

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3939.

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 3939
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 20, 2024

SUMMARY

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.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase to the General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Department of the Treasury.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Expenditure Increase	\$125,000 per 100 firefighters

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill may increase State expenditures by \$1,250 per examination, or \$125,000 per 100 firefighters, annually due to the increase in the number of professional firefighters entitled to cancer screening examinations. Total annual costs under the bill will ultimately depend on the number of professional firefighters not enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program, but who are eligible for the program by virtue of public employment, who opt to undergo cancer screening examinations each year.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for firefighters who are not enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program, but who are eligible for the program by virtue of public employment. Under current law, a professional firefighter enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program is entitled to a cancer screening examination every three years. This bill expands the access to examinations to professional firefighters who waived State Health Benefits Program coverage because they have different health care coverage.

Additionally, the bill specifies that the State will remit to public employers for the examination up to \$1,250 per three-year period for each firefighter.

The bill requires an appropriation from the State General Fund in each annual appropriations act as necessary for the purposes of the bill.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will increase State expenditures by \$1,250 per examination, or \$125,000 per 100 firefighters, annually due to the increase in the number of professional firefighters entitled to cancer screening examinations. Total annual costs under the bill will ultimately depend on the number of professional firefighters not enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program, but who are eligible for the program by virtue of public employment, who opt to undergo cancer screening examinations each year.

Section: State Government

*Analyst: Camryn Mathews
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

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)

28

29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

33

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.

SENATE LABOR COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2890

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 14, 2024

The Senate Labor Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2890.

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

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 2890
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 20, 2024

SUMMARY

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.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase to the General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Department of the Treasury.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Expenditure Increase	\$125,000 per 100 firefighters

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill may increase State expenditures by \$1,250 per examination, or \$125,000 per 100 firefighters, annually due to the increase in the number of professional firefighters entitled to cancer screening examinations. Total annual costs under the bill will ultimately depend on the number of professional firefighters not enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program, but who are eligible for the program by virtue of public employment, who opt to undergo cancer screening examinations each year.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for firefighters who are not enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program, but who are eligible for the program by virtue of public employment. Under current law, a professional firefighter enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program is entitled to a cancer screening examination every three years. This bill expands the access to examinations to professional firefighters who waived State Health Benefits Program coverage because they have different health care coverage.

Additionally, the bill specifies that the State will remit to public employers for the examination up to \$1,250 per three-year period for each firefighter.

The bill requires an appropriation from the State General Fund in each annual appropriations act as necessary for the purposes of the bill.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that this bill will increase State expenditures by \$1,250 per examination, or \$125,000 per 100 firefighters, annually due to the increase in the number of professional firefighters entitled to cancer screening examinations. Total annual costs under the bill will ultimately depend on the number of professional firefighters not enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program, but who are eligible for the program by virtue of public employment, who opt to undergo cancer screening examinations each year.

Section: State Government

*Analyst: Camryn Mathews
Assistant Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Mandating Access to Periodic Cancer Screenings for Firefighters

06/3/2024

TRENTON – Governor Murphy today signed legislation that mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for firefighters who are not enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP), but who are eligible for enrollment in the SHBP by public employment.

Current law entitles a paid, full-time firefighter enrolled in the SHBP or a firefighter employed by a public employer that does not participate in the SHBP, to a cancer screening examination every three years.

This bill ([S2890](#)) now extends this benefit to firefighters who waive their employer-sponsored health care but are still eligible for coverage under the SHBP through their employment with a public employer. The State will now reimburse up to \$1,250 per three-year period for each firefighter's examination, regardless of their participation in their employer's health care plan.

"Thousands of firefighters across the state put their lives on the line for their communities," **said Governor Murphy**. "We must do what we can to provide these incredible men and women with the health care they deserve. Preventive cancer screenings will not only save lives and reduce unnecessary suffering, but also ensure our public servants remain healthy."

"This law will help ensure our firefighters, who are regularly exposed to carcinogens through their line of work, will always have access to periodic cancer screenings," **said Senator Greenstein**. "Previous law left a portion of our firefighters out of this guaranteed coverage, unnecessarily leaving them at higher risk. With this reform, they will be better protected and more incentivized to obtain preventative care, which will save lives."

"Early detection can make a real difference in the outcome of a cancer diagnosis," **said Senator Joe Cryan**. "These cancer screenings can save lives, prevent needless suffering, and avoid costly treatment. The firefighters who serve our communities and protect our residents have more than earned the right for this care. This law will provide more incentive and support to have this preventive care done."

"Firefighters can be exposed to hazardous toxins, leading to a higher risk of cancer," **said Assemblyman Sterley Stanley**. "Cancer screening leads to early detection and early diagnosis, both of which give cancer patients the best possible chance for a successful outcome. I am thrilled to see this bill become law, because I know the profound impact it will have in the lives of so many first responders."

"Professional firefighters put themselves, their safety, and their health on the line each day, not hesitating to take heroic risks to save someone they likely don't even know," **said Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson**. "Now, thanks to the law being signed today, many more of these brave individuals can gain access to lifesaving cancer screening exams."

"Firefighters across the state work to keep each of us safe in our communities, risking their lives on a routine basis," **said Assemblywoman Shanique Speight.** "We need to do what we can to protect them. By reimbursing local employers to pay for firefighters' for free cancer screening exams, we are making sure their health and safety is a priority."

"The signing of A3939/S2890 by Gov. Phil Murphy is the culmination of our comprehensive cancer screening program for active career firefighters. This legislation eliminates the financial burden on our municipalities and fire districts to pay for the screenings and having to wait for reimbursement from Treasury. This ensures our members will have access to the critical testing needed because of occupational hazards. Firefighters throughout our nation are being diagnosed with cancer every day. In New Jersey, Firefighter Glen Seiboldt, a 10 year veteran of the Edison Fire Department was diagnosed with Stage 2 non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He received early treatment and is currently in remission. While Glen's cancer was found to be more advanced this screening program has already identified pre-cancer and Stage 1 conditions in multiple firefighters in our state who have been treated and are returning to work with minimal sick leave," **said Matthew Caliente, President of the Professional Firefighters of New Jersey.** "The work done by Assemblyman Sterley Stanley and Senator Linda Greenstein as well as the overwhelming bipartisan support in both houses of our legislature has not gone unnoticed by our membership. Our legislators' support of public safety and recognition of the growing dangers of 'forever chemicals' such as PFAS in firefighting foam and protective garments, or the toxic gas emissions from lithium ion battery fires that are being studied as a link to cancer demonstrates their commitment to ensuring early detection, early treatment, and better outcomes for our firefighters, like Glen, so we can continue to protect our citizens and communities. Thank you to Gov. Murphy for recognizing the importance of our work and signing this legislation into law and to the State Treasury for their cooperation and expertise to make the reimbursement program work."

"Today, let us remember NJ FMBA Legislative Chairman Bobby Allen. Bobby recently succumbed to a valiant fight against cancer. The NJ FMBA has been advocating for cancer screening, presumptive legislation, and cancer registry for years. Had this legislation been around years ago, Bobby may still be with us. Thank you, Governor Murphy and our Legislators who have taken a decades-long fight and brought it to reality. Cancer is the number one killer of Firefighters and this legislation will undoubtedly save lives." **said Eddie Donnelly, President of the New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association.**

"This bill signing is another step forward for Firefighters to receive early detection screenings for a variety of types of cancer. The sooner cancers are detected will mean easier and shorter treatment which in most cases will lead to the Firefighter becoming cancer-free," **said Robert Ordway, President of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.**