

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 389 (SB 439)

2026 Regular Session

Boudreaux

Existing law (R.S. 33:2581.4) provides that a classified firefighter employed as a full-time paid employee of a municipal or parish fire department or fire protection district and fire service employees employed by a nonprofit corporation under contract with a fire protection district shall be provided a cancer screening examination conducted by a physician.

New law retains existing law and authorizes a qualified healthcare provider to conduct cancer screening and precancer screening examinations.

Existing law provides that the initial examination shall be conducted not less than three years after the start of employment, and subsequent examinations shall be conducted during the course of employment in accordance with the following schedule:

- (1) Every five years for firefighters and fire service employees who are not less than 20 years of age and not more than 39 years of age.
- (2) Every four years for firefighters and fire service employees who are not less than 40 years of age and not more than 49 years of age.
- (3) Every three years for firefighters and fire service employees who are 50 years of age or older.

New law retains existing law and adds that subsequent examinations shall be conducted for precancer screenings or testing, every 10 years for every firefighter and fire service employee beginning with the first 10 years of employment and in 10 year intervals thereafter.

Existing law provides that the examination shall include but not be limited to screening for the following cancers:

- (1) Colon.
- (2) Lung.
- (3) Bladder.
- (4) Oral.
- (5) Thyroid.
- (6) Skin.
- (7) Blood.
- (8) Breast.
- (9) Cervical.
- (10) Testicular.
- (11) Prostate.

New law retains existing law but provides that effective on January 1, 2027, precancer screenings for esophageal cancer shall be made available to every firefighter and fire service employee and scheduled as provided in existing law, but terminable in all cases at the age of 60.

Existing law provides that any firefighter or fire service employee who retires from active service, including a firefighter or fire service employee who retires due to a disability, shall be provided cancer screening examinations by his former employer pursuant to the schedule provided in existing law. New law retains existing law and includes precancer screening examinations for retired firefighters and fire service employees.

Existing law provides that all costs associated with cancer screening examinations provided for in existing law shall be paid by the firefighter's or fire service employee's employer or former employer. Further provides that no copayment, deductible, coinsurance, or any out-of-pocket expense shall be required for such examinations. New law retains existing law and includes that all costs associated with precancer screening examinations shall be paid by the firefighter's or fire service employee's employer or former employer.

Existing law provides that no firefighter or fire service employee shall be required to participate in cancer screening examinations. New law retains existing law and provides that no firefighter or fire service employee shall be required to participate in precancer screening examinations.

Existing law provides that the provisions of existing law shall not be applicable to any firefighter or fire service employee who resigned or was terminated by his employer. New law retains existing law and provides that no firefighter or fire service employee who resigned or was terminated shall be required to participate in precancer screening examinations.

Existing law provides that nothing in existing law shall be construed to require a personal health insurance company to pay for cancer screening examinations for firefighters or fire service employees that are conducted more frequently than such examinations are recommended in the most recently published recommendations established by the American Cancer Society or the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. New law adds provision that nothing in existing law shall be construed to require a personal health insurance company to pay for precancer screening examinations and otherwise retains existing law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 33:2581.4)