

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 439

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

LOCAL EMPLOYEES. Provides for cancer screenings for firefighters and fire service employees. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2581.4, relative to certain firefighters and fire service
3 employees; to provide relative to precancer screenings for esophageal cancer for
4 certain firefighters and fire service employees; to provide relative to the time period
5 for cancer screening examinations; to provide relative to screens for retired
6 firefighters and fire service employees; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 33:2581.4 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §2581.4. Cancer screenings; certain firefighters and fire service employees

10 A. A classified firefighter employed as a full-time paid employee of a
11 municipal or parish fire department or fire protection district and fire service
12 employees employed by a nonprofit corporation under contract with a fire protection
13 district shall be provided a cancer screening examination **and precancer screening**
14 conducted by a physician. The initial **cancer screening** examination shall be
15 conducted not less than three years after the start of employment, and subsequent
16 examinations shall be conducted during the course of employment in accordance
17 with the following schedule:

* * *

(4) Every ten years for every firefighter and fire service employee beginning with the first ten years of employment and in ten year intervals thereafter for precancer screening or testing.

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C. Effective January 1, 2027, precancer screenings for esophageal cancer shall be made available to every firefighter and fire service employee and scheduled as provided in Subsection A of this Section, but terminable in all cases at the age of sixty.

D. 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 **and precancer** screening examinations by his former employer pursuant to the schedule provided in Subsection A of this Section.

~~D.~~**E.** All costs associated with cancer screening **and precancer** examinations provided for in this Section shall be paid by the firefighter's or fire service employee's employer or former employer. No copayment, deductible, coinsurance, or any out-of-pocket expense shall be required for such examinations.

~~E.~~**F.** No firefighter or fire service employee shall be required to participate in cancer **or precancer** screening examinations.

~~F.~~**G.** The provisions of the Section shall not be applicable to any firefighter or fire service employee who resigned or was terminated by his employer.

~~G.~~**H.** Nothing in this Section 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.

examinations.

Present law provides that nothing in present 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. Proposed law retains present law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 33:2581.4)