

SENATE BILL NO. 439

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

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 authorize qualified healthcare
5 providers to conduct cancer screening examinations and precancer screenings; to
6 provide relative to the time period for cancer screening examinations; to provide
7 relative to screens for retired firefighters and fire service employees; and to provide
8 for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

11 §2581.4. Cancer screenings; certain firefighters and fire service employees

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

20 (1) Every five years for firefighters and fire service employees who are not
21 less than twenty years of age and not more than thirty-nine years of age.

22 (2) Every four years for firefighters and fire service employees who are not
23 less than forty years of age and not more than forty-nine years of age.

24 (3) Every three years for firefighters and fire service employees who are fifty
25 years of age or older.

26 **(4) Every ten years for every firefighter and fire service employee**
27 **beginning with the first ten years of employment and in ten-year intervals**

1 **thereafter for precancer screening or testing.**

2 B. The examination shall include but not be limited to screening for the
3 following cancers:

4 (1) Colon.

5 (2) Lung.

6 (3) Bladder.

7 (4) Oral.

8 (5) Thyroid.

9 (6) Skin.

10 (7) Blood.

11 (8) Breast.

12 (9) Cervical.

13 (10) Testicular.

14 (11) Prostate.

15 C. **Effective January 1, 2027, precancer screenings for esophageal cancer**
16 **shall be made available to every firefighter and fire service employee in**
17 **accordance with the schedule provided in Subsection A of this Section, but**
18 **terminable in all cases at the age of sixty.**

19 **D.** Any firefighter or fire service employee who retires from active service,
20 including a firefighter or fire service employee who retires due to a disability, shall
21 be provided cancer **and precancer** screening examinations by his former employer
22 pursuant to the schedule provided in Subsection A of this Section.

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

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

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

1 ~~G.H.~~ Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require a personal health
2 insurance company to pay for cancer **and precancer** screening examinations for
3 firefighters or fire service employees that are conducted more frequently than such
4 examinations are recommended in the most recently published recommendations
5 established by the American Cancer Society or the National Comprehensive Cancer
6 Network.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____