

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS****HB 253****2024 Regular Session****Stagni**

**FIRE PROTECT/FIREMEN:** Provides relative to cancer screenings for certain firefighters and fire service employees

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Makes changes to the time period for cancer screening examinations based on the age of a firefighter or fire service employee.
2. Provides that personal health insurance companies are not required to pay for cancer screening examinations that are conducted more frequently than recommended by certain national cancer organizations.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Proposed law requires that classified firefighters employed as full-time paid employees of municipal or parish fire departments or fire protection districts and fire service employees employed by nonprofit corporations under contract with fire protection districts be provided cancer screening examinations.

Proposed law requires that the cancer screening examinations be conducted by a physician not less than three years after the start of employment and thereafter as follows:

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

Proposed law requires that the examination include, but not be limited to the following cancers:

- (1) Colon.
- (2) Lung.
- (3) Bladder.
- (4) Oral.
- (5) Thyroid.

Proposed law requires that retired firefighters and fire service employees be provided cancer screening examinations by their former employers pursuant to proposed law. Additionally requires employers and former employers to pay for the costs of cancer screening examinations.

Proposed law provides that no firefighter or fire service employee shall be required to participate in cancer screening examinations. Further provides that proposed law is not applicable to any firefighter or fire service employee who resigned or was terminated by his employer.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed 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 recommended in the most recently published recommendations established by the American Cancer Society or the National Comprehensive Cancer Network.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:2581.4)