

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)

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AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

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

A. 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 **and precancer screening** conducted by a physician. The initial **cancer screening** 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:

\* \* \*

**(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.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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DIGEST

SB 439 Engrossed                      2026 Regular Session                      Boudreaux

Present 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.

Present 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.

Proposed law retains present 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.

Proposed law 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 present law, but terminable in all cases at the age of 60.

Present 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 present law. Proposed law retains present law and includes precancer screening examinations for retired firefighters and fire service employees.

Present law provides that all costs associated with cancer screening examinations provided for in present 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. Proposed law retains present 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.

Present law provides that no firefighter or fire service employee shall be required to participate in cancer screening examinations. Proposed law retains present law and provides that no firefighter or fire service employee shall be required to participate in precancer screening examinations.

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

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)