

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 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

1 employment, and subsequent examinations shall be conducted during the course of
2 employment in accordance with the following schedule:

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

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

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

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

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

14 (1) Colon.

15 (2) Lung.

16 (3) Bladder.

17 (4) Oral.

18 (5) Thyroid.

19 (6) Skin.

20 (7) Blood.

21 (8) Breast.

22 (9) Cervical.

23 (10) Testicular.

24 (11) Prostate.

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

29 **D.** Any firefighter or fire service employee who retires from active service,

1 including a firefighter or fire service employee who retires due to a disability, shall
 2 be provided cancer **and precancer** screening examinations by his former employer
 3 pursuant to the schedule provided in Subsection A of this Section.

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

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

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

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

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)]

DIGEST

SB 439 Re-Reengrossed

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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.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes a qualified healthcare provider to conduct cancer screening and precancer screening examinations.

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.

Present 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.

Proposed law retains present 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 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 adds provision that nothing in present law shall be construed to require a personal health insurance company to pay for precancer screening examinations and otherwise retains present law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 33:2581.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Authorize a qualified healthcare provider to conduct cancer screening examinations and precancer screenings.
2. Make technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to reengrossed bill

1. Make technical changes.