

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2236 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY WHITE, MARCELL, SCHMITT, SCHEUREN, STAATS,
STENDER, CIRESI, JOZWIAK, DALEY, NEILSON, KINSEY, MAJOR,
FLICK, CONKLIN AND GREEN, APRIL 25, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 25, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating
3 to emergency management services, providing for insurance
4 coverage for cancer and cardiovascular screenings for
5 firefighters.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
9 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

10 § 7715. Insurance coverage for cancer and cardiovascular
11 screenings for firefighters.

12 (a) Requirements.--Notwithstanding any other provision of
13 law, each health, sickness or accident insurance policy or
14 contract issued on behalf of the Commonwealth or a municipality
15 for a firefighter shall also provide the following:

16 (1) Coverage for cancer screenings for the firefighter
17 in accordance with the following:

18 (i) The minimum coverage required shall include all

1 costs associated with the cancer screenings, which shall
2 occur at least once every three years during the period
3 in which the individual is employed as a firefighter.

4 (ii) The cancer screenings shall determine whether
5 the firefighter suffers from a cancer and whether the
6 cancer may have been caused by exposure to a carcinogen
7 referred to in section 108(r) of the act of June 2, 1915
8 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation
9 Act.

10 (iii) The cancer screenings shall also include
11 screenings for the following cancers:

12 (A) Liver.

13 (B) Kidney.

14 (C) Gall bladder.

15 (D) Spleen.

16 (E) Prostate, including prostate-specific
17 antigen (PSA) screening.

18 (F) Testicular and scrotal.

19 (G) Pelvic, including uterine and ovary external
20 scans and human papillomavirus (HPV) tests.

21 (H) Thyroid.

22 (I) Colon.

23 (J) Lung.

24 (K) Skin.

25 (L) Urinary bladder.

26 (iv) The cancer screenings may include screenings
27 for oral cancer.

28 (2) Coverage for cardiovascular screenings for the
29 firefighter in accordance with the following:

30 (i) The minimum coverage required shall include all

1 costs associated with the cardiovascular screenings,
2 which shall occur at least once every three years during
3 the period in which the individual is employed as a
4 firefighter.

5 (ii) The cardiovascular screenings shall include
6 echocardiograms and screenings of the abdominal aorta and
7 carotid arteries.

8 (b) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
9 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
10 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Firefighter." As follows:

12 (1) An individual who is an employee of the Commonwealth
13 or a municipality whose duty it is to perform fire
14 prevention, protection or suppression services.

15 (2) The term includes:

16 (i) Emergency medical services personnel employed
17 within a municipal fire company or a volunteer and
18 municipal fire company located in this Commonwealth.

19 (ii) A firefighter at an airport authority located
20 in this Commonwealth, including a fire suppression
21 instructor.

22 (iii) A fire and safety marshal who is a firefighter
23 employed by the Commonwealth.

24 (iv) A fire academy instructor employed at the
25 Pennsylvania State Fire Academy.

26 (v) An assistant fire marshal employed by the
27 Commonwealth.

28 (vi) A forest patrolman or forest technician
29 employed by the Commonwealth.

30 "Municipality." A county, city, borough, incorporated town,

1 township, home rule municipality, optional plan municipality,
2 optional charter municipality or similar general purpose unit of
3 government of this Commonwealth that may be created or
4 authorized by statute.

5 Section 2. The addition of 35 Pa.C.S. § 7715 shall apply to
6 any health, sickness or accident insurance policy or contract
7 issued or renewed, on behalf of a firefighter of the
8 Commonwealth or a municipality of this Commonwealth, on or after
9 the effective date of this section.

10 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.