

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1204 Session of  
2024

INTRODUCED BY FARRY, PENNYCUICK, DILLON, SANTARSIERO, SCHWANK,  
KANE, BREWSTER, MILLER, ROBINSON AND TARTAGLIONE,  
MAY 28, 2024

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
MAY 28, 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 health  
4 screenings for firefighters and EMS providers.

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

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

9 § 7715. Health screenings for firefighters and EMS providers.

10 (a) General rule.--A firefighter or EMS provider employed as  
11 a full-time paid employee of a fire department or a political  
12 subdivision shall have a cancer and cardiovascular health  
13 screening exam conducted by a physician no less than once every  
14 three years during the course of the firefighter's or EMS  
15 provider's employment. Where applicable, a health screening  
16 under this section shall include, at a minimum:

17 (1) Screenings for the following cancers and  
18 cardiovascular conditions:

- 1           (i) Liver.
- 2           (ii) Gallbladder.
- 3           (iii) Kidney.
- 4           (iv) Spleen.
- 5           (v) Urinary bladder and prostate.
- 6           (vi) Abdominal aorta.
- 7           (vii) Testicle and scrotal.
- 8           (viii) Pelvic, uterus and ovary external scan.
- 9           (ix) Thyroid.
- 10          (x) Carotid.
- 11          (xi) Colon.
- 12          (xii) Lung.
- 13          (xiii) Skin.

14          (2) An echocardiogram.

15          (3) For a male, a prostate-specific antigen (PSA)  
16          screening.

17          (4) For a female, a human papillomavirus (HPV)  
18          screening.

19          (b) Cost of health screenings.--All costs associated with a  
20          health screening under this section shall be covered by a health  
21          care benefits plan included with the firefighter's or EMS  
22          provider's employment, an insurance fund, joint insurance fund  
23          or other manner. An employer shall cover the cost of a  
24          copayment, deductible, coinsurance or employee out-of-pocket  
25          expense for a health screening under this section.

26          (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
27          words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
28          subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

29          "Emergency medical services provider" or "EMS provider." Any  
30          of the following:

- 1           (1) An emergency medical responder.
- 2           (2) An emergency medical technician.
- 3           (3) An advanced emergency medical technician.
- 4           (4) A paramedic.
- 5           (5) A prehospital registered nurse.
- 6           (6) A prehospital physician extender.
- 7           (7) A prehospital emergency medical services physician.
- 8           (8) An individual prescribed by regulation of the  
9 Department of Health to provide specialized emergency medical  
10 services.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.