

SENATE No. 3284

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

SENATE, October 15, 2026.

The committee on Senate Ways and Means to whom was referred the House Bill mandating access to cancer screenings for firefighters through health care benefits plans or programs provided by the public employer (House, No. 5631); reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3284.

For the committee,
Michael J. Rodrigues

SENATE No. 3284

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:-

3 Section 35. The commission shall provide cancer screening pursuant to section 91 of
4 chapter 48 for eligible enrollees. Coverage provided pursuant to this section shall not be subject
5 to cost sharing including, but not limited to, co-payment, deductible, coinsurance or any out-of-
6 pocket expense; provided, however, that such cost sharing shall be required if the applicable plan
7 is governed by the United States Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a
8 result of the prohibition on cost sharing for these services.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 48 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
10 section:-

11 Section 91. (a) A cancer screening examination, conducted by a physician, shall be
12 provided to a firefighter employed as a full-time paid employee of a fire department of the
13 commonwealth or a city, town, fire or water district. The screening shall be conducted not less
14 than 3 years after the start of the firefighter's employment as a firefighter and every 3 years
15 thereafter during the course of the firefighter's employment. This section shall apply to members
16 of the Massachusetts military reservation fire department, members of the 104th fighter wing fire

department and members of the Devens fire department; provided, however, that for purposes of this section, the Massachusetts Port Authority, the Massachusetts Military Reservation, the Barnes Air National Guard Base and the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone shall be fire districts.

(b) The examination required pursuant to subsection (a) shall include, but not be limited to, screening for, when applicable, colon cancer, lung cancer, bladder cancer, oral cancer, thyroid cancer, skin cancer, blood cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, testicular cancer and prostate cancer.

(c) All costs associated with examinations required pursuant to subsection (a) shall be borne by the firefighter's health care benefits plan or program provided by the firefighter's employer.

SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 233. Any blanket or general policy of insurance shall provide cancer screening pursuant to section 91 of chapter 48 for eligible enrollees. Coverage provided pursuant to this section shall not be subject to cost sharing including, but not limited to, co-payment, deductible, coinsurance or any out-of-pocket expense; provided, however, that such cost sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by the United States Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the prohibition on cost sharing for these services.

SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

37 Section 39. A contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or
38 group hospital service plan shall provide cancer screening pursuant to section 91 of chapter 48
39 for eligible enrollees. Coverage provided pursuant to this section shall not be subject to cost
40 sharing including, but not limited to, co-payment, deductible, coinsurance or any out-of-pocket
41 expense; provided, however, that such cost sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is
42 governed by the United States Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a
43 result of the prohibition on cost sharing for these services.

44 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
45 following section:-

46 Section 26. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service
47 agreement, except certificates that provide supplemental coverage to Medicare or other
48 governmental programs, that is delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall
49 provide cancer screening pursuant to section 91 of chapter 48 for eligible enrollees. Coverage
50 provided pursuant to this section shall not be subject to cost sharing including, but not limited to,
51 co-payment, deductible, coinsurance or any out-of-pocket expense; provided, however, that such
52 cost sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is governed by the United States Internal
53 Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result of the prohibition on cost sharing
54 for these services.

55 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
56 following section:-

57 Section 34. Individual and group health maintenance contracts delivered, issued or
58 renewed in the commonwealth shall provide cancer screening pursuant to section 91 of chapter

59 48 for eligible enrollees. Coverage provided pursuant to this section shall not be subject to cost
60 sharing including, but not limited to, co-payment, deductible, coinsurance or any out-of-pocket
61 expense; provided, however, that such cost sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is
62 governed by the United States Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a
63 result of the prohibition on cost sharing for these services.