

Chapter 319

(Senate Bill 579)

AN ACT concerning

**Counties – No–Cost Preventive Cancer Screenings for Volunteer and Retired
Volunteer Firefighters**

FOR the purpose of requiring counties in which a volunteer fire company is located to offer no–cost preventive cancer screenings in accordance with certain guidelines to volunteer firefighters volunteering and retired volunteer firefighters who volunteered with the volunteer fire company; authorizing a county to satisfy the requirement by providing a certain annual examination or applying for a certain grant; requiring the volunteer fire companies to maintain a certain list of volunteer firefighters and retired volunteer firefighters and provide the list, annually and on request, to the county in which the volunteer fire company is located; requiring the counties to maintain the list provided; and generally relating to the provision of no–cost preventive cancer screenings for volunteer and retired volunteer firefighters by counties.

BY adding to

Article – Local Government
Section 9–115
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Local Government**9–115.**

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “RETIRED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A RETIRED FIREFIGHTER WHO:

(I) VOLUNTEERED WITH A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY IN A COUNTY;

(II) WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN FIRE SUPPRESSION WHILE VOLUNTEERING WITH THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY; ~~AND~~

~~(III) HAS RECEIVED BENEFITS UNDER A LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS COMPLETED A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE; AND~~

~~(IV) ACCUMULATED AT LEAST 50 POINTS UNDER A LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM OR A POINT SYSTEM ESTABLISHED IN LIEU OF A LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM.~~

~~(2) (3)~~ “VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY” INCLUDES A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

~~(3) (4)~~ “VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A FIREFIGHTER ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN FIRE SUPPRESSION AND VOLUNTEERING WITH A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY IN A COUNTY.

(B) (1) EACH COUNTY IN WHICH A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY IS LOCATED SHALL OFFER NO-COST PREVENTIVE CANCER SCREENINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST SCREENING GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS TO EACH VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER WHO VOLUNTEERS AND EACH RETIRED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER WHO VOLUNTEERED WITH THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY.

(2) EACH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY SHALL:

(I) MAINTAIN AN UP-TO-DATE LIST OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WHO ARE VOLUNTEERING AND RETIRED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WHO VOLUNTEERED WITH THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY; AND

(II) PROVIDE THE LIST TO THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY IS LOCATED:

1. ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR; AND
2. ON REQUEST OF THE COUNTY.

(3) EACH COUNTY IN WHICH A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY IS LOCATED SHALL MAINTAIN A LIST OF ALL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WHO VOLUNTEER AND ALL RETIRED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WHO VOLUNTEERED IN THE COUNTY AS PROVIDED BY EACH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(C) A COUNTY MAY SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT IN SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION BY:

(1) PROVIDING A NO-COST ANNUAL EXAMINATION TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND RETIRED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS THAT INCLUDES PREVENTIVE CANCER SCREENINGS FOR FIREFIGHTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST SCREENING GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS; OR

(2) APPLYING FOR A GRANT UNDER TITLE 13, SUBTITLE 40 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE TO PAY FOR INNOVATIVE CANCER SCREENING TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING A MULTICANCER EARLY DETECTION BLOOD TEST.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, April 28, 2026.