

# HOUSE BILL 1602

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6lr3659  
CF SB 579

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By: ~~Delegate Griffith~~ Delegates Griffith, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaufman, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Reilly, Rosenberg, Ross, Taveras, White Holland, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Health, March 24, 2026

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 26, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Local Government  
17 Section 9-115  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2013 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Local Government**

4 **9–115.**

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

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

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

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

13 (III) HAS COMPLETED A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER  
14 SERVICE; AND

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

18 ~~(2)~~ (3) “VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY” INCLUDES A VOLUNTEER  
19 FIRE DEPARTMENT.

20 ~~(3)~~ (4) “VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS  
21 A FIREFIGHTER ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN FIRE SUPPRESSION AND VOLUNTEERING  
22 WITH A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY IN A COUNTY.

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

29 (2) EACH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY SHALL:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
24 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.