

SENATE BILL 579

L1, J1

6lr2596
CF HB 1602

By: **Senators Jennings, Gallion, Corderman, Carozza, Bailey, ~~and Salling~~ Salling, Beidle, Gile, Hayes, Hershey, Hester, Jackson, Kramer, Lam, Mautz, and Ready**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026
Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 1, 2026

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)

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

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.



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.

~~(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

