

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4285

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 27, 2018

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SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Health to develop voluntary registry to collect cancer incidence data from firefighters.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on January 17, 2019, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning firefighters and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Firefighter
8 Cancer Registry Act of ¹~~2018~~ 2019¹.”

9
10 2. a. The Commissioner of Health shall develop and maintain a
11 firefighter cancer registry, which shall be a voluntary registry of
12 firefighters to collect relevant history and occupational information
13 from firefighters that can be linked to available cancer registry data
14 collected by existing State cancer registries.

15 b. The ¹~~Commissioner~~ commissioner¹ shall seek to include the
16 following information for each firefighter included in the firefighter
17 cancer registry:

18 (1) the age and demographic information of the firefighter;

19 (2) the status of the firefighter as either a ¹~~paid or~~ volunteer ¹~~or~~
20 a career¹ firefighter;

21 (3) the number of years working as a firefighter;

22 (4) the number of fire incidents attended to by the firefighter ¹,
23 including the number of incidents involving a residential house fire,
24 the number of incidents involving a commercial fire, and the number
25 of incidents involving any other type of fire¹;

26 (5) whether the firefighter’s history includes smoking or drug use;

27 (6) relevant physical examination and medical history information;
28 and

29 (7) any additional information that is deemed necessary by the
30 ¹~~Commissioner~~ commissioner¹.

31 c. For the purpose of developing and maintaining the firefighter
32 registry established pursuant to this section, the ¹~~Commissioner~~
33 commissioner¹ shall consult experts with experience in developing and
34 maintaining cancer registries, studying cancer incidence, diagnosing
35 and treating cancer, and firefighting.

36
37 3. ¹~~The Commissioner of Health shall~~ a. The Department of
38 Health shall review data reported to the registry to identify trends in
39 cancer incidence among firefighters throughout the State, including
40 identifying any regional disparities in cancer incidence and developing
41 strategies to mitigate risk factors for firefighters developing cancer.
42 The department shall make registry data available to the public and
43 shall furnish epidemiological registry data, without fee, to any entity
44 requesting the data for research purposes. The department may

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted January 17, 2019.

1 authorize the use of registry information in journal articles and other
2 print and Internet-based publications. Data made available pursuant to
3 this section shall include, but shall not be limited to, raw, de-identified
4 data, cancer incidence statistics, and trends and other findings
5 identified based on the department's review of registry data.

6 b. The commissioner shall periodically review the cancer registry
7 to identify and implement improvements to registry infrastructure and
8 Statewide monitoring of cancer incidence data, as well as to¹ develop
9 a strategy for increasing awareness of the firefighter cancer registry
10 and maximizing ¹【participation in sending】 the voluntary reporting
11 of¹ information to the registry.

12 ¹c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the
13 disclosure of any confidential or personal identifying information.¹
14

15 4. ¹【The Commissioner of Health】 Commencing one year after
16 the effective date of this act, and annually thereafter, the department¹
17 shall ¹submit a¹ report ¹【any findings made pursuant to this act】¹ to
18 the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
19 19.1), to the Legislature ¹, concerning its findings regarding trends in
20 cancer incidence among firefighters in New Jersey, including any
21 recommendations for reducing the cancer rate and risk factors for
22 developing cancer among firefighters, and any recommendations for
23 legislative, administrative, or other action as may be appropriate to
24 reduce cancer incidence among firefighters or to improve the
25 functioning of, and participation in, the cancer registry¹.
26

27 ¹【5. The Commissioner of Health shall develop and make public
28 a process for making data collected through the firefighter cancer
29 registry available without a fee for research while maintaining the
30 privacy standards adopted pursuant to section 6 of this act.】¹
31

32 ¹【6.】 5.¹ Names and individual identification data collected
33 pursuant to the provisions of this act shall not be disclosed ¹【by the
34 Commissioner of Health】¹ unless required by law, and nothing in this
35 act shall be construed to require disclosure of any private or
36 confidential health information in violation of State or federal privacy
37 laws. ¹Information reported to the registry shall not be admissible in
38 any civil or criminal proceeding, and shall not constitute the basis for
39 any professional or administrative disciplinary action against an
40 individual reporting the individual's own information to the registry.¹
41

42 ¹【7.】 6.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.