

REFERENCE TITLE: **firefighters; occupational disease; adenocarcinoma**

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2026

# **HB 2231**

Introduced by  
Representative Blackman

**AN ACT**

**AMENDING SECTIONS 23-901.01 AND 23-901.09, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;  
RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 23-901.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 to read:

4 23-901.01. Occupational disease; proximate causation;  
5 presumption; definition

6 A. The occupational diseases as defined by section 23-901,  
7 paragraph 13, subdivision (c) shall be deemed to arise out of the  
8 employment only if all of the following six requirements exist:

9 1. There is a direct causal connection between the conditions under  
10 which the work is performed and the occupational disease.

11 2. The disease can be seen to have followed as a natural incident  
12 of the work as a result of the exposure occasioned by the nature of the  
13 employment.

14 3. The disease can be fairly traced to the employment as the  
15 proximate cause.

16 4. The disease does not come from a hazard to which workers would  
17 have been equally exposed outside of the employment.

18 5. The disease is incidental to the character of the business and  
19 not independent of the relation of employer and employee.

20 6. The disease after its contraction appears to have had its origin  
21 in a risk connected with the employment, and to have flowed from that  
22 source as a natural consequence, although it need not have been foreseen  
23 or expected.

24 B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section and section  
25 23-1043.01, any disease, infirmity or impairment of a peace officer's  
26 health that ~~is caused by brain, bladder, rectal or colon cancer, lymphoma,~~  
27 ~~leukemia or adenocarcinoma, or mesothelioma of the respiratory tract and~~  
28 ~~that~~ results in disability or death is presumed to be an occupational  
29 disease as defined in section 23-901, paragraph 13, subdivision (c) and is  
30 deemed to arise out of employment **IF THE DISEASE, INFIRMITY OR IMPAIRMENT**  
31 **IS CAUSED BY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

32 1. **BRAIN, BLADDER, RECTAL OR COLON CANCER.**

33 2. **LYMPHOMA.**

34 3. **LEUKEMIA.**

35 4. **ADENOCARCINOMA.**

36 5. **MESOTHELIOMA OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT.**

37 C. The presumption provided in subsection B of this section is  
38 granted if all of the following apply:

39 1. The peace officer passed a physical examination before  
40 employment and the examination did not indicate evidence of cancer.

41 2. The peace officer was assigned to hazardous duty for at least  
42 five years.

43 D. Subsection B of this section applies to both of the following:

44 1. Peace officers currently in service.

1           2. Former peace officers who are sixty-five years of age or younger  
2 and who are diagnosed with a cancer that is listed in subsection B of this  
3 section not more than fifteen years after the peace officer's last date of  
4 employment as a peace officer.

5           E. Subsection B of this section does not apply to cancers of the  
6 respiratory tract if there is evidence that the peace officer's exposure  
7 to cigarettes or tobacco products outside of the scope of the peace  
8 officer's official duties is a substantial contributing cause in the  
9 development of the cancer.

10          F. The presumption provided in subsection B of this section may be  
11 rebutted by clear and convincing evidence that there is a specific cause  
12 of the cancer other than an occupational exposure to a carcinogen as  
13 defined by the international agency for research on cancer.

14          G. For the purposes of this section, "peace officer" means a  
15 full-time peace officer who was regularly assigned to hazardous duty as a  
16 part of a special operations, special weapons and tactics, explosive  
17 ordinance disposal or hazardous materials response unit.

18          Sec. 2. Section 23-901.09, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
19 read:

20           23-901.09. Presumption; cancers; firefighters and fire  
21 investigators; applicability; definitions

22          A. Notwithstanding section 23-901.01, subsection A and section  
23 23-1043.01:

24           1. Any disease, infirmity or impairment of a firefighter's or fire  
25 investigator's health ~~that is caused by brain, bladder, rectal or colon~~  
26 ~~cancer, lymphoma, leukemia or adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the~~  
27 ~~respiratory tract and~~ that results in disability or death is presumed to  
28 be an occupational disease as defined in section 23-901, paragraph 13,  
29 subdivision (c) and is deemed to arise out of employment **IF THE DISEASE,**  
30 **INFIRMITY OR IMPAIRMENT IS CAUSED BY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- 31           (a) **BRAIN, BLADDER, RECTAL OR COLON CANCER.**
- 32           (b) **LYMPHOMA.**
- 33           (c) **LEUKEMIA.**
- 34           (d) **ADENOCARCINOMA.**
- 35           (e) **MESOTHELIOMA OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT.**

36           2. Any disease, infirmity or impairment of a firefighter's or fire  
37 investigator's health that ~~is caused by buccal cavity, pharynx, esophagus,~~  
38 ~~large intestine, lung, kidney, prostate, skin, stomach, ovarian, breast or~~  
39 ~~testicular cancer or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple myeloma or malignant~~  
40 ~~melanoma and that~~ results in disability or death is presumed to be an  
41 occupational disease as defined in section 23-901, paragraph 13,  
42 subdivision (c) and is deemed to arise out of employment **IF THE DISEASE,**  
43 **INFIRMITY OR IMPAIRMENT IS CAUSED BY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- 44           (a) **BUCCAL CAVITY, PHARYNX, ESOPHAGUS, LARGE INTESTINE, LUNG,**  
45 **KIDNEY, PROSTATE, SKIN, STOMACH, OVARIAN, BREAST OR TESTICULAR CANCER.**

1 (b) NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA.

2 (c) MULTIPLE MYELOMA.

3 (d) MALIGNANT MELANOMA.

4 B. The presumptions provided in subsection A of this section are  
5 granted if all of the following apply:

6 1. The firefighter or fire investigator passed a physical  
7 examination before employment and the examination did not indicate  
8 evidence of cancer.

9 2. The firefighter or fire investigator was assigned to hazardous  
10 duty for at least five years.

11 3. For the presumption provided in subsection A, paragraph 2 of  
12 this section and for firefighters only, the firefighter received a  
13 physical examination that is reasonably aligned with the national fire  
14 protection association standard on comprehensive occupational medical  
15 program for fire departments (NFPA 1582).

16 C. Subsection A of this section applies to both of the following:

17 1. Firefighters or fire investigators currently in service.

18 2. Former firefighters or fire investigators who are sixty-five  
19 years of age or younger and who are diagnosed with a cancer that is listed  
20 in subsection A of this section not more than fifteen years after the  
21 firefighter's or fire investigator's last date of employment as a  
22 firefighter or fire investigator.

23 D. Subsection A of this section does not apply to cancers of the  
24 respiratory tract if there is evidence that the firefighter's or fire  
25 investigator's exposure to cigarettes or tobacco products outside of the  
26 scope of the firefighter's or fire investigator's official duties is a  
27 substantial contributing cause in the development of the cancer.

28 E. The presumption provided in subsection A of this section may be  
29 rebutted by clear and convincing evidence that there is a specific cause  
30 of the cancer other than an occupational exposure to a carcinogen as  
31 defined by the international agency for research on cancer.

32 F. For the purposes of this section:

33 1. "Firefighter" means a full-time firefighter who was regularly  
34 assigned to hazardous duty.

35 2. "Fire investigator" means a person who is employed full time by  
36 a municipality or fire district and who is trained in the process of and  
37 responsible for determining the origin, cause and development of a fire or  
38 explosion.