

House Engrossed Senate Bill
firefighters; occupational disease; cancers

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SENATE BILL 1215

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~~ IS 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. ADENOCARCINOMA.
- 33 2. BLADDER CANCER.
- 34 3. BRAIN CANCER.
- 35 4. COLON CANCER.
- 36 5. LEUKEMIA.
- 37 6. LYMPHOMA.
- 38 7. MESOTHELIOMA OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT.
- 39 8. RECTAL CANCER.

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

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

44 2. The peace officer was assigned to hazardous duty for at least
45 five years.

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

2 1. Peace officers currently in service.

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

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

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

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

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

22 23-901.09. Presumption; cancers; firefighters and fire
23 investigators; applicability; definitions

24 A. Notwithstanding section 23-901.01, subsection A and section
25 23-1043.01, ~~---~~

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

- 33 1. ADENOCARCINOMA.
- 34 2. BLADDER CANCER.
- 35 3. BRAIN CANCER.
- 36 4. BREAST CANCER.
- 37 5. BUCCAL CAVITY CANCER.
- 38 6. COLON CANCER.
- 39 7. ESOPHAGEAL CANCER.
- 40 8. KIDNEY CANCER.
- 41 9. LARGE INTESTINE CANCER.
- 42 10. LEUKEMIA.
- 43 11. LUNG CANCER.
- 44 12. LYMPHOMA.
- 45 13. MALIGNANT MELANOMA.

- 1 14. MESOTHELIOMA OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT.
- 2 15. MULTIPLE MYELOMA.
- 3 16. NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA.
- 4 17. OVARIAN CANCER.
- 5 18. PHARYNX CANCER.
- 6 19. PROSTATE CANCER.
- 7 20. RECTAL CANCER.
- 8 21. SKIN CANCER.
- 9 22. STOMACH CANCER.
- 10 23. TESTICULAR CANCER.

11 ~~2. Any disease, infirmity or impairment of a firefighter's or fire~~
12 ~~investigator's health that is caused by buccal cavity, pharynx, esophagus,~~
13 ~~large intestine, lung, kidney, prostate, skin, stomach, ovarian, breast or~~
14 ~~testicular cancer or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple myeloma or malignant~~
15 ~~melanoma and that results in disability or death is presumed to be an~~
16 ~~occupational disease as defined in section 23-901, paragraph 13,~~
17 ~~subdivision (c) and is deemed to arise out of employment.~~

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

20 1. The firefighter or fire investigator passed a physical
21 examination before employment and the examination did not indicate
22 evidence of cancer.

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

25 3. For the presumption provided in subsection A, paragraph ~~2~~ 4, 5,
26 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22 OR 23 of this section and for
27 firefighters only, the firefighter received a physical examination that is
28 reasonably aligned with the national fire protection association standard
29 on comprehensive occupational medical program for fire departments (NFPA
30 1582).

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

32 1. Firefighters or fire investigators currently in service.

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

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

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

5 F. For the purposes of this section:

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

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

12 Sec. 3. Retroactivity

13 Section 23-901.09, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act,
14 applies retroactively to from and after June 30, 2021.