

REFERENCE TITLE: firefighters; occupational disease; cancers

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

# SB 1215

Introduced by  
Senator Payne

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. BREAST CANCER.
- 36 5. BUCCAL CAVITY CANCER.
- 37 6. COLON CANCER.
- 38 7. ESOPHAGEAL CANCER.
- 39 8. KIDNEY CANCER.
- 40 9. LARGE INTESTINE CANCER.
- 41 10. LEUKEMIA.
- 42 11. LUNG CANCER.
- 43 12. LYMPHOMA.
- 44 13. MALIGNANT MELANOMA.
- 45 14. MESOTHELIOMA OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT.

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

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

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

14 2. The peace officer was assigned to hazardous duty for at least  
15 five years.

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

17 1. Peace officers currently in service.

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

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

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

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

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

37 23-901.09. Presumption; cancers; firefighters and fire  
38 investigators; applicability; definitions

39 A. Notwithstanding section 23-901.01, subsection A and section  
40 23-1043.01, ~~---~~

41 ~~+~~ any disease, infirmity or impairment of a firefighter's or fire  
42 investigator's health that ~~is caused by brain, bladder, rectal or colon~~  
43 ~~cancer, lymphoma, leukemia or adenocarcinoma or mesothelioma of the~~  
44 ~~respiratory tract and that~~ results in disability or death is presumed to  
45 be an occupational disease as defined in section 23-901, paragraph 13,

1 subdivision (c) and is deemed to arise out of employment IF THE DISEASE,  
2 INFIRMITY OR IMPAIRMENT IS CAUSED BY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 3 1. ADENOCARCINOMA.
- 4 2. BLADDER CANCER.
- 5 3. BRAIN CANCER.
- 6 4. BREAST CANCER.
- 7 5. BUCCAL CAVITY CANCER.
- 8 6. COLON CANCER.
- 9 7. ESOPHAGEAL CANCER.
- 10 8. KIDNEY CANCER.
- 11 9. LARGE INTESTINE CANCER.
- 12 10. LEUKEMIA.
- 13 11. LUNG CANCER.
- 14 12. LYMPHOMA.
- 15 13. MALIGNANT MELANOMA.
- 16 14. MESOTHELIOMA OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT.
- 17 15. MULTIPLE MYELOMA.
- 18 16. NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA.
- 19 17. OVARIAN CANCER.
- 20 18. PHARYNX CANCER.
- 21 19. PROSTATE CANCER.
- 22 20. RECTAL CANCER.
- 23 21. SKIN CANCER.
- 24 22. STOMACH CANCER.
- 25 23. TESTICULAR CANCER.

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

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

35 1. The firefighter or fire investigator passed a physical  
36 examination before employment and the examination did not indicate  
37 evidence of cancer.

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

40 3. For the presumption provided in subsection A, paragraph ~~2~~ 4, 5,  
41 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22 OR 23 of this section and for  
42 firefighters only, the firefighter received a physical examination that is  
43 reasonably aligned with the national fire protection association standard  
44 on comprehensive occupational medical program for fire departments (NFPA  
45 1582).

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

2 1. Firefighters or fire investigators currently in service.

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

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

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

17 F. For the purposes of this section:

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

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