

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4627

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Delegates G. Howell, Pritt, Masters, Zatezalo,
Hornby, Hillenbrand, Rohrbach, Flanigan,
Fehrenbacher, Heckert, and Campbell

[Introduced January 21, 2026; referred to the
Committee on Health and Human Resources then
Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §5-16-13a, relating to firefighter health coverage; providing definitions;
3 providing preventative cancer screening in accordance with certain guidelines; prohibiting
4 copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement on certain coverage of preventive
5 cancer screenings; and requiring counties and municipalities that offer self-insured
6 employee health benefit plans to comply with a certain provisions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 16. WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES INSURANCE ACT.

§5-16-13a. Payment of costs by employer and employee for firefighters.

1 (a) "Professional firefighter" means an individual employed as a firefighter by a state,
2 county, or municipal entity during the time of the individual's employment.

3 (b) This section applies to:

4 (1) Insurers and nonprofit health service plans that provide hospital, medical, or surgical
5 benefits to individuals or groups on an expense-incurred basis under health insurance policies or
6 contracts that are issued or delivered in the state; and

7 (2) Health maintenance organizations that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits
8 to individuals or groups under contracts that are issued or delivered in the state.

9 (c) An entity subject to this section shall provide coverage to a professional firefighter for
10 preventive cancer screenings in accordance with the latest screening guidelines issued by the
11 international association of fire fighters.

12 (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, an entity subject to this
13 section may not impose a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible requirement on coverage of
14 preventive cancer screenings for professional firefighters as required under subsection (c) of this
15 section.

16 (2) If an insured or an enrollee is covered under a high-deductible health plan, as defined
17 in 26 U.S.C. § 223, an entity subject to this section may subject preventive cancer screenings for

- 18 professional firefighters to the deductible requirement of the high-deductible health plan.
- 19 (e) This section may not be construed to prohibit an entity subject to this section from
- 20 providing coverages that are greater than or more favorable to an insured or an enrollee than the
- 21 coverage required under this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide free preventative cancer screening for professional firefighters.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.