

By: King of Uvalde, et al.

H.B. No. 2455

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an annual occupational medical examination for fire fighters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 180, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 180.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 180.010. ANNUAL OCCUPATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR FIRE FIGHTERS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Fire department" has the meaning assigned by Section 419.021, Government Code.

(2) "Fire fighter" means an individual:

(A) defined as fire protection personnel under Section 419.021(3)(C), Government Code; and

(B) who is certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection under Chapter 419 of that code.

(b) A fire department shall offer an annual occupational medical examination to each fire fighter employed by the fire department at no cost to the fire fighter.

(c) The annual occupational medical examination must be confidential and include:

(1) a blood test;

(2) a urine test;

(3) a pulmonary function test;

(4) an electrocardiogram;

1 (5) an infectious disease screening;

2 (6) a cancer screening; and

3 (7) a chest x-ray, subject to Subsection (d).

4 (d) A fire fighter is eligible to receive a chest x-ray
5 during an annual occupational medical examination under this
6 section once every five years.

7 (e) The Texas Commission on Fire Protection shall adopt
8 rules establishing minimum standards for annual occupational
9 medical examinations under this section by using standards
10 developed by the National Fire Protection Association.

11 (f) A fire department is not required to offer an annual
12 occupational medical examination under this section if the fire
13 department submits an annual medical examination plan to the Texas
14 Commission on Fire Protection by February 1 of each year. The plan
15 must be endorsed by a physician and be in substantial compliance
16 with standards developed by the National Fire Protection
17 Association. The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
18 subsection.

19 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
20 of this Act but not later than January 1, 2025, the Texas Commission
21 on Fire Protection shall adopt rules as required by Sections
22 180.010(e) and (f), Local Government Code, as added by this Act.

23 SECTION 3. A fire department is not required to comply with
24 Section 180.010, Local Government Code, as added by this Act, until
25 February 1, 2025.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.