

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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Private Member's Bill – Firefighters' Health Act

On May 12, 2025, Misty Van Popta, Conservative MLA for Langley-Walnut Grove, presented a private member's bill, Bill M 214 – 2025 – [Firefighters' Health Act \(Bill M 214\)](#) to the Legislative Assembly of BC. This Member's Bill proposes the development of a plan for the comprehensive health screening of firefighters, as well as a review of [s.140 of the Workers Compensation Act](#) (WCA) and the [Firefighters' Occupational Disease Regulation](#) (Regulation), and the preparation of a report with any recommendations in respect to prescribed occupational diseases and prescribed minimum cumulative periods as per s.140 of the WCA.

Key Points of the Legislation

The following are key areas of *Bill M 214*:

In consultation with the minister responsible for the WCA, the British Columbia Professional Firefighters' Association (BCPFA), and the Association of Doctors of BC, the minister must:

1. Develop a plan for the comprehensive health screening of firefighters. This must be done within 9 months of the Act coming into force. The plan must provide:
 - a. early detection cancer screening;
 - b. comprehensive physical examinations on a regular basis, including a mental health assessment; and
 - c. comprehensive laboratory and screening tests on a regular basis.

As soon as practicable upon completion of the plan, the minister must table it in the Legislative Assembly or deposit it with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly if the Legislative Assembly is not sitting.

The plan must be reviewed every 5 years, and any necessary revisions must be made to safeguard the health of firefighters. If a plan has been revised the minister must once again table the revised plan in the Legislative Assembly or deposit it with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

2. Conduct a review of s.140 (Firefighters: presumptions respecting lung cancer and other diseases) of the WCA, and the Regulation, taking into account relevant medical or scientific evidence or information. The minister must prepare a report with any recommendations, if any, that come from that review, in respect to:
 - a. prescribed occupational diseases for the purposes of section 140 (1) (b) of the WCA; and
 - b. prescribed minimum cumulative periods for the purposes of section 140 (2) (a) of the WCA.

What's Next?

As of May 12, 2025, *Bill M 214* has gone through first reading and will now move to second reading. RES will continue to monitor the progress of this bill and provide subsequent updates as they arise.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any comments or questions about this update, please e-mail RES360@metrovancover.org or call 604-451-6558.

SOURCES

Conservative Party of British Columbia –

https://www.conservativebc.ca/firefighters_health_act

Bill | Legislative Assembly of BC –

https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/overview/43rd-parliament/1st-session/bills/1st_read/m214-1.htm

Workers Compensation Act -

https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/19001_04#section140

Firefighters' Occupational Disease Regulation -

https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/11_125_2009