

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

A Regional Employers Services Publication

Vol. 72, April 17, 2026

metrovancover

RES | REGIONAL
EMPLOYERS
SERVICES

Private Member's Bill Firefighters' Health Act Receives Royal Assent

Further to the Legislative Briefing titled [Private Member's Bill – Firefighters' Health Act](#) published on June 9, 2025, [Bill M 214-2025 – Firefighters' Health Act](#) (Act) received Royal Assent on April 16, 2026. This legislation creates 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.

The Act came into effect on the date of Royal Assent.

Background of Legislation

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. On March 30, 2026, the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bill Committee issued [this report](#) to the Legislative Assembly resulting in an [amendment](#) of the Bill. The amendments to Bill M 214 did not result in substantial changes to the purpose of the Bill.

Key Points of the Legislation

The following are key areas of the new Act:

PART 1 – HEALTH SCREENING REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Health Screening Plan

Within 12 months after this Act comes into force, the minister for the *Ministry of Health Act* (minister), must in consultation with the ministers responsible for the WCA, the *Fire Safety Act* and *Wildfire Act*, develop a plan for the comprehensive health screening of firefighters. The plan must provide:

- a) early detection cancer screening;
- b) comprehensive physical examinations on a regular basis, including a mental health assessment;
- c) comprehensive laboratory and screening tests on a regular basis;
- d) the continued collection of data regarding
 - i. the exposure risk of firefighters, in the course of carrying out their duties, and



- ii. the impacts of the exposures described in subparagraph (i) on the health of firefighters.

Tabling of the Plan

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.

Review of the Plan

The minister must, in consultation with the various ministers responsible, review the plan every five (5) years, and any necessary revisions must be made to safeguard the health of firefighters. If a plan has been revised the minister must table the revised plan in the Legislative Assembly or deposit it with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

PART 2 – PRESUMPTIONS RESPECTING LUNG CANCER AND OTHER DISEASES

Review of Section 140 of the Workers Compensation Act

Within 12 months after this Act comes into force, the minister must, in consultation with the ministers responsible,

- a. 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; and
- b. prepare a report with any recommendations, if any, in respect of the following:
 - i. prescribed occupational diseases for the purposes of section 140 (1) (b) of the WCA;
 - ii. prescribed minimum cumulative periods for the purposes of section 140 (2) (a) of the WCA.

Tabling of the Plan

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

According to this [April 13, 2026 CBC article](#), this is the first legislation of its kind in Canada. This legislative change also comes at the heels of the BC Government announcing the addition of eight cancers to the list of work-related cancers under the Firefighters' Occupational Disease Regulation (see [RES Legislative Briefing dated March 3, 2026](#)).

Questions?

If you have any comments or questions about either of these updates, please e-mail RES360@metrovancover.org or call 604-451-6558.

Sources

“B.C. Conservative MLA’s bill on firefighter health passes” - April 13, 2026

[B.C. Conservative MLA's bill on firefighter health passes | CBC News](#)