

Amendment No. 284

Assembly Amendment to Assembly Bill No. 141	(BDR 53-567)
<b>Proposed by:</b> Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor	
<b>Amends:</b> Summary: No Title: Yes Preamble: No Joint Sponsorship: No Digest: Yes	

ASSEMBLY ACTION		Initial and Date		SENATE ACTION		Initial and Date			
Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Concurred In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Concurred In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Receded	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Receded	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) *blue bold italics* is new language in the original bill; (2) green bold italic underlining is new language proposed in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) orange double underlining is deleted language in the original bill that is proposed to be retained in this amendment; and (6) green bold underlining is newly added transitory language.

WR/SLP



Date: 4/19/2011

A.B. No. 141—Revises the frequency with which certain volunteer firefighters must submit to physical examinations to receive workers’ compensation coverage for certain occupational diseases.  
(BDR 53-567)



ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 141—ASSEMBLYMEN GOICOECHEA;  
ELLISON AND HANSEN

FEBRUARY 11, 2011

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises the frequency with which certain volunteer firefighters must submit to physical examinations to receive workers' compensation coverage for certain occupational diseases. (BDR 53-567)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to occupational diseases; expanding the frequency with which certain volunteer firefighters must submit to physical examinations to receive workers' compensation coverage for certain occupational diseases; revising provisions relating to the procedure for scheduling such physical examinations under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Under existing law, an employee who contracts an occupational disease arising out of and in the course of his or her employment is generally entitled to receive benefits for workers' compensation. (Chapter 617 of NRS) Specifically, if an employee has been employed for 2 years or more as a full-time salaried firefighter, arson investigator or police officer or has acted for 2 years or more as a volunteer firefighter who is entitled to benefits for workers' compensation, any disease of the lungs caused by exposure to heat, smoke, fumes, tear gas or any other noxious gases arising out of and in the course of employment is an occupational disease for which the employee is entitled to receive workers' compensation. To receive coverage for such an occupational disease, the employee must submit to a physical examination upon initial employment, upon commencement of the coverage, once every even-numbered year until the employee is 40 years of age or older and on an annual basis thereafter during his or her employment. (NRS 617.455) **Section 1** of this bill requires a volunteer firefighter ~~who~~ to submit to a physical examination upon employment, commencement of coverage and once every 3 years after commencement of coverage until the volunteer firefighter is 40 50 years of age or older ~~to submit to the physical examination~~ and once every 2 years thereafter instead of on an annual basis.

Existing law provides similar coverage for a volunteer firefighter who contracts a disease of the heart and who, for 5 years or more, has served continuously as a volunteer firefighter in Nevada. To receive coverage for such an occupational disease, the volunteer firefighter is required to submit to a physical examination upon initial employment, once every 3 years after the initial examination until he or she reaches the age of 50 years and once each year if he or she is 50 years of age or older. (NRS 617.457) **Section 2** of this bill requires a volunteer firefighter ~~who~~ to submit to a physical examination upon employment, upon commencement of coverage and once every 3 years after commencement of the coverage

25 until the volunteer firefighter is 50 years of age or older ~~[to submit to the physical~~  
 26 ~~examination]~~ and once every 2 years thereafter instead of once each year. Section 2 also  
 27 requires employers to follow certain procedures when scheduling physical examinations  
 28 for volunteer firefighters.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 617.455 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 617.455 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, diseases of  
 3 the lungs, resulting in either temporary or permanent disability or death, are  
 4 occupational diseases and compensable as such under the provisions of this chapter  
 5 if caused by exposure to heat, smoke, fumes, tear gas or any other noxious gases,  
 6 arising out of and in the course of the employment of a person who, for 2 years or  
 7 more, has been:

8 (a) Employed in this State in a full-time salaried occupation of fire fighting or  
 9 the investigation of arson for the benefit or safety of the public;

10 (b) Acting as a volunteer firefighter in this State and is entitled to the benefits  
 11 of chapters 616A to 616D, inclusive, of NRS pursuant to the provisions of NRS  
 12 616A.145; or

13 (c) Employed in a full-time salaried occupation as a police officer in this State.

14 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, each employee who is to be  
 15 covered for diseases of the lungs pursuant to the provisions of this section shall  
 16 submit to a physical examination, including a thorough test of the functioning of his  
 17 or her lungs and the making of an X-ray film of the employee's lungs, upon  
 18 employment, upon commencement of the coverage, once every ~~seven numbered~~  
 19 year] 2 years until the employee is 40 years of age or older and thereafter on an  
 20 annual basis during his or her employment.

21 3. ~~[A thorough test of the functioning of the lungs is not required for a~~  
 22 ~~volunteer firefighter. 4]~~ Each volunteer firefighter who is to be covered for  
 23 diseases of the lungs pursuant to the provisions of this section shall submit to:

24 (a) A physical examination upon employment and upon commencement of  
 25 the coverage; and

26 (b) The making of an X-ray film of the volunteer firefighter's lungs once  
 27 every 3 years after the physical examination that is required upon  
 28 commencement of the coverage,

29 until the volunteer firefighter reaches the age of 50 years. Each volunteer  
 30 firefighter who is ~~[40]~~ 50 years of age or older shall submit to ~~[the]~~ a physical  
 31 examination ~~[required pursuant to subsection 2]~~ once every 2 years during his or  
 32 her employment. As used in this subsection, "physical examination" includes the  
 33 making of an X-ray film of the volunteer firefighter's lungs but excludes a  
 34 thorough test of the functioning of his or her lungs.

35 4. All physical examinations required pursuant to ~~[subsection]~~ subsections 2  
 36 and 3 must be paid for by the employer.

37 5. A disease of the lungs is conclusively presumed to have arisen out of and in  
 38 the course of the employment of a person who has been employed in a full-time  
 39 continuous, uninterrupted and salaried occupation as a police officer, firefighter or  
 40 arson investigator for 5 years or more before the date of disablement.

41 6. Failure to correct predisposing conditions which lead to lung disease when  
 42 so ordered in writing by the examining physician after ~~[the annual or biennial]~~ a  
 43 physical examination required pursuant to subsection 2 or 3 excludes the

1 employee from the benefits of this section if the correction is within the ability of  
2 the employee.

3 7. A person who is determined to be:

4 (a) Partially disabled from an occupational disease pursuant to the provisions  
5 of this section; and

6 (b) Incapable of performing, with or without remuneration, work as a  
7 firefighter, police officer or arson investigator,

8 **➤** may elect to receive the benefits provided under NRS 616C.440 for a permanent  
9 total disability.

10 **Sec. 2.** NRS 617.457 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 617.457 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, diseases of  
12 the heart of a person who, for 5 years or more, has been employed in a full-time  
13 continuous, uninterrupted and salaried occupation as a firefighter, arson  
14 investigator or police officer in this State before the date of disablement are  
15 conclusively presumed to have arisen out of and in the course of the employment.

16 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, diseases of the heart,  
17 resulting in either temporary or permanent disability or death, are occupational  
18 diseases and compensable as such under the provisions of this chapter if caused by  
19 extreme overexertion in times of stress or danger and a causal relationship can be  
20 shown by competent evidence that the disability or death arose out of and was  
21 caused by the performance of duties as a volunteer firefighter by a person entitled  
22 to the benefits of chapters 616A to 616D, inclusive, of NRS pursuant to the  
23 provisions of NRS 616A.145 and who, for 5 years or more, has served continuously  
24 as a volunteer firefighter in this State by continuously maintaining an active status  
25 on the roster of a volunteer fire department.

26 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, each employee who is to be  
27 covered for diseases of the heart pursuant to the provisions of this section shall  
28 submit to a physical examination, including an examination of the heart, upon  
29 employment, upon commencement of coverage and thereafter on an annual basis  
30 during his or her employment.

31 4. ~~For~~ During the period in which a volunteer firefighter is continuously on  
32 active status on the roster of a volunteer fire department, a physical examination  
33 for ~~the~~ the volunteer firefighter is required ~~upon initial~~ :

34 (a) Upon employment ;

35 (b) Upon commencement of coverage; and ~~once~~

36 (c) Once every 3 years after the ~~initial~~ physical examination that is required  
37 pursuant to paragraph (b).

38 **➤** until the firefighter reaches the age of 50 years. Each volunteer firefighter who is  
39 50 years of age or older shall submit to a physical examination once ~~each year.~~  
40 every 2 years during his or her employment.

41 5. The employer of the volunteer firefighter is responsible for scheduling the  
42 physical examination. The employer shall mail to the volunteer firefighter a  
43 written notice of the date, time and place of the physical examination at least 10  
44 days before the date of the physical examination and shall obtain, at the time of  
45 mailing, a certificate of mailing issued by the United States Postal Service.

46 6. Failure to submit to a physical examination that is scheduled by his or her  
47 employer pursuant to subsection 5 excludes the volunteer firefighter from the  
48 benefits of this section.

49 7. The chief of a volunteer fire department may require an applicant to pay for  
50 any physical examination required pursuant to this section if the applicant:

51 (a) Applies to the department for the first time as a volunteer firefighter; and

52 (b) Is 50 years of age or older on the date of his or her application.

1           8. The volunteer fire department shall reimburse an applicant for the cost of a  
2 physical examination required pursuant to this section if the applicant:

- 3           (a) Paid for the physical examination in accordance with subsection 7;  
4           (b) Is declared physically fit to perform the duties required of a firefighter; and  
5           (c) Becomes a volunteer with the volunteer fire department.

6           9. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, all physical examinations  
7 required pursuant to subsections 3 and 4 must be paid for by the employer.

8           10. Failure to correct predisposing conditions which lead to heart disease  
9 when so ordered in writing by the examining physician subsequent to ~~{the annual or~~  
10 ~~biennial}~~ a physical examination required pursuant to subsection 3 or 4 excludes  
11 the employee from the benefits of this section if the correction is within the ability  
12 of the employee.

13           11. A person who is determined to be:

14           (a) Partially disabled from an occupational disease pursuant to the provisions  
15 of this section; and

16           (b) Incapable of performing, with or without remuneration, work as a  
17 firefighter, arson investigator or police officer,  
18           ➤ may elect to receive the benefits provided under NRS 616C.440 for a permanent  
19 total disability.

20           12. Claims filed under this section may be reopened at any time during the  
21 life of the claimant for further examination and treatment of the claimant upon  
22 certification by a physician of a change of circumstances related to the occupational  
23 disease which would warrant an increase or rearrangement of compensation.

24           ~~{ Sec. 3. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011. }~~