

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 285

BY REPRESENTATIVE BILLIOT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

WORKERS COMPENSATION: Provides for worker's compensation for volunteer reserve police officers

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 23:1036.1, relative to benefits for volunteer reserve police officers and
3 deputies; to provide medical benefits for injured reserve police officers and deputies
4 under certain circumstances; to provide definitions; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 23:1036.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1036.1. Reserve police officers and deputies; coverage

9 A. Any reserve police officer or reserve deputy who volunteers for a law
10 enforcement agency, municipal or parish, and performs law enforcement activities
11 and protective services and is injured in the line of duty may be entitled to medical
12 benefits pursuant to R.S. 23:1203 if the municipality, parish, or public entity, in its
13 own discretion and by using its own funds, elects to provide such coverage. Such
14 benefits shall not be subject to a copayment, deductible, or any other method to shift
15 the cost of compensable medical care to the injured volunteer reserve officer or
16 deputy.

17 B. No law enforcement agency shall provide indemnity benefits for the
18 volunteer reserve police officer or deputy.

1 C. No law enforcement agency shall be liable for benefits under this Section
2 for injuries occurring within the course of, or arising out of, the volunteer reserve
3 officer's or deputy's other employment.

4 D. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms have the meaning
5 ascribed to them:

6 (1) "Volunteer reserve police officer" means an individual who is carried on
7 the membership list of the municipal organization as an active participant in the
8 normal functions of the law enforcement organization and who receives nominal or
9 no remuneration for his services.

10 (2) "Volunteer reserve deputy" means an individual who is a part-time, non-
11 salaried, fully-commissioned law enforcement officer who is a volunteer of the
12 parish organization.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 285 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Billiot

Abstract: Provides medical benefits for volunteer reserve police officers and deputies who may become injured while the volunteer member is in the line of duty.

Present law provides that a volunteer reserve officer or deputy shall be covered under their own insurance policy.

Proposed law provides that any reserve police officer or deputy who volunteers for a municipal or parish law enforcement agency, may be entitled to medical benefits pursuant to present law if injured during the line of duty.

Proposed law provides that the public entity may elect to provide coverage for volunteer reserve police officers or deputies by using its own funds and at their own discretion.

Proposed law provides that the injured reserve police officer or reserve deputy shall not be compensated for injuries occurring within the course of, or arising out of, the volunteer reserve officer's or deputy's other employment.

Proposed law provides that the injured volunteer reserve officer or reserve deputy shall not be entitled to be compensated for lost wages.

Proposed law defines the term "volunteer reserve officer" to mean an individual who is carried on the membership list of the municipal organization as an active participant in the normal functions of the law enforcement organization.

Proposed law defines the term "volunteer reserve deputy" as an individual who is a part-time, non-salaried, fully-commissioned law enforcement officer who volunteers with the parish organization.

(Adds R.S. 23:1036.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to the original bill:

1. Specify that medical benefits shall be given to volunteer reserve officers or deputies if the municipality, parish, or public entity elects to provide such benefits.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Specify that a public entity may provide coverage to volunteer reserve police officers or deputies at their discretion and by using their own funds to provide such coverage.