
DIGEST

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HB 1072 Original

2022 Regular Session

Horton

Abstract: Provides that the development of a certain amount of hearing loss while employed in the classified police service is classified as an occupational disease.

Proposed law provides that the development of hearing loss that is 10 dB HL or greater average for the frequencies that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) monitors for noise exposure in the general population when adjusted for aging and which develops while employed in the classified police service is classified as a disease or infirmity connected with employment. Provides that the employee is entitled to medical benefits, including hearing aids, that a person suffering an occupational disease is entitled pursuant to state law. Provides that such hearing loss is presumed to have occurred as a result of employment and to have resulted from hazardous noise exposure when annual diagnostic hearing testing reveals a decrease of 10 dB HL or more for the frequencies that (OSHA) monitors for noise exposure from the baseline audiological evaluation. Provides that the presumption is rebuttable and extends 24 months beyond termination of service. Requires each person selected for appointment to an entry level position in the classified police service to submit to a baseline audiology examination, an annual audiological examination, and a final termination audiological evaluation at the end of service.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall modify the qualifications necessary to establish eligibility to receive benefits or the calculation of benefits to be paid under any Louisiana public pension or retirement system, plan, or fund.

(Adds R.S. 33:2581.3)