

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 36

BY SENATOR PRICE

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

SHERIFFS. Provides for funding of certain insurance costs for retirees of the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office. (8/1/23)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:5554.11, relative to the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office group insurance;

3 to provide for payments of life and health insurance premium costs for retirees; to

4 create a fund; to require the depositing of certain monies into the fund; to provide for

5 investment of monies in the fund; to authorize withdrawals; to provide for eligibility

6 requirements; to provide for oversight; to provide for terms, conditions, and

7 procedures; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 13:5554.11 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **§5554.11. Ascension Parish; payment of group insurance premiums; retired**

11 **sheriffs and deputy sheriffs; creation of fund**

12 **A. There is hereby created the Ascension Parish Retired Employees**

13 **Insurance Fund, hereinafter referred to as the "AREIF", to fund the payment**

14 **by the sheriff's office of Ascension Parish of the premium costs for eligible**

15 **retired sheriffs and retired deputy sheriffs.**

16 **B. The following monies shall be deposited by the sheriff of Ascension**

17 **Parish into the AREIF until the total amount of the monies including principal**

1 and earnings equals the sum of five million dollars:

2 (1) At least one percent of the tax revenue received annually that is
3 authorized by the Ascension Parish Law Enforcement Subdistrict No. 1 general
4 sales and use tax ordinance.

5 (2) Any other monies that the sheriff of Ascension Parish may contribute
6 to the AREIF.

7 C. Upon recommendation of the AREIF Board established in Subsection
8 F of this Section, the sheriff of Ascension Parish shall invest the monies in the
9 AREIF as follows:

10 (1) Not less than twenty-five percent in equities.

11 (2) At least twenty-five percent in fixed income investments, provided
12 that a minimum of twenty-five percent of the fixed income portion is rated as
13 investment grade by a nationally recognized rating agency.

14 D. (1) The monies deposited pursuant to Subsection B of this Section, the
15 monies invested pursuant to Subsection C of this Section, and the accumulated
16 earnings shall be available for the sheriff to withdraw for the purpose of paying
17 the insurance costs, claims, premiums, or legal costs for retired sheriffs and
18 retired deputy sheriffs of Ascension Parish and all costs associated with
19 administering the AREIF.

20 (2) In the event that the total amount of monies derived from deposits
21 provided in Subsection B of this Section and investment earnings fall below the
22 sum of five million dollars, no earnings shall be withdrawn, and any balance
23 owed for the payment of insurance premium costs or legal representation costs
24 for the AREIF Board shall be paid in full from the sheriff's general fund.

25 E. Any financial audit conducted of the sheriff's office of Ascension
26 Parish shall specifically address compliance with the provisions of this Section.

27 F.(1) To provide oversight and recommendations concerning the
28 investment of funds as provided in Subsection C of this Section, the sheriff shall
29 establish an AREIF Board consisting of five members as follows:

1 **(a) The chief financial officer of the sheriff's office of Ascension Parish.**

2 **(b) The four remaining positions shall be a combination of active deputy**
 3 **sheriffs, retired sheriffs, or retired deputy sheriffs of the office, appointed by the**
 4 **sheriff, with at least one position designated for a retired sheriff or deputy**
 5 **sheriff.**

6 **(2) Members of the board shall elect a chairperson at its first board**
 7 **meeting, which shall be held within thirty days after the appointment of board**
 8 **members.**

9 **(3) Members of the board shall serve terms concurrent with that of the**
 10 **sheriff.**

11 **(4) Members of the board shall serve without compensation.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

DIGEST

SB 36 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Price

Proposed law creates the Ascension Parish Retired Employees Insurance Fund (AREIF) to fund the payment by the sheriff's office of Ascension Parish of the premium costs for eligible retired sheriffs and retired deputy sheriffs.

Proposed law requires the following monies be deposited by the sheriff of Ascension Parish into the AREIF until the total amount of the monies, including the principal and earnings, equals the sum of \$5,000,000:

- (1) At least 1% of the tax revenue received annually authorized by the Ascension Parish Law Enforcement Subdistrict No. 1 general sales and use tax ordinance.
- (2) Any other monies that the sheriff of Ascension Parish may contribute to the AREIF.

Proposed law requires that, upon recommendation of the AREIF Board, the sheriff invest the monies in the AREIF as follows:

- (1) Not less than 25% in equities.
- (2) At least 25% in fixed income investments, provided that a minimum of 25% of the fixed income portion is rated as investment grade by a nationally recognized rating agency.

Proposed law requires the monies deposited pursuant to proposed law, the monies invested pursuant to proposed law, and the accumulated earnings be available for the sheriff to withdraw for the purpose of paying the insurance costs, claims, premiums, or legal costs for retired sheriffs and retired deputy sheriffs of Ascension Parish and all costs associated with administering the AREIF.

Proposed law requires that in the event that the total amount of monies derived from deposits

and investment earnings fall below the sum of \$5,000,000, no earnings be withdrawn, and any balance owed for the payment of insurance premium costs or legal representation costs for the AREIF Board be paid in full from the sheriff's general fund.

Proposed law requires any financial audit conducted of the sheriff's office specifically address compliance with the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the sheriff to establish the AREIF Board consisting of five members as follows:

- (1) The chief financial officer of the sheriff's office.
- (2) The four remaining positions shall be a combination of active deputy sheriffs, retired sheriffs, or retired deputy sheriffs of the office, appointed by the sheriff, with at least one position designated for a retired sheriff or deputy sheriff.

Proposed law requires the members to elect a chairperson at its first board meeting, which must be held within 30 days after the appointment of board members.

Proposed law requires the members to serve terms concurrent with that of the sheriff.

Proposed law requires the members to serve without compensation.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 13:5554.11)