

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 218

BY REPRESENTATIVES JACKSON, GARY CARTER, GAINES, HAZEL, HODGES,  
MAGEE, MARINO, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATOR WHITE

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:5521.1, relative to sheriffs; to provide for participation in the Louisiana  
3 Sheriffs' Certification Program; to provide criteria for participation; to provide for  
4 incentives; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:5521.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §5521.1. Louisiana Sheriffs' Certification Program

8 A.(1) A sheriff is eligible to participate in the Louisiana Sheriffs'  
9 Certification Program as provided for by this Section if the sheriff completes the  
10 training, certification, or educational requirement or attains the law enforcement  
11 experience as provided for in Subparagraph (B)(4)(a) of this Section.

12 (2) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit a sheriff from  
13 participation in an approved deferred compensation plan.

14 B.(1) The Louisiana Sheriffs' Certification Program is hereby established to  
15 formalize and recognize the professional standards of sheriffs and further support  
16 public safety in the state.

17 (2) Objectives. The Louisiana Sheriffs' Certification Program is designed  
18 to provide incentives for sheriffs to gain additional knowledge and experience in  
19 order to further the requirements and responsibilities of the office for which they  
20 were elected.

1           (3) Eligibility. Only elected sheriffs of each parish shall be eligible for  
2           participation in the Louisiana Sheriffs' Certification Program.

3           (4)(a) Requirements. Sheriffs who complete any of the following training,  
4           certification, or educational requirements or attain the following experience shall be  
5           eligible for participation in the Louisiana Sheriffs' Certification Program:

6           (i) A certificate of graduation from the FBI National Academy at Quantico,  
7           Virginia.

8           (ii) An associate or bachelor's degree from a regional accredited institution  
9           of higher education as recognized by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Executive Management  
10           Institute Board.

11           (iii) A masters degree or juris doctor from a regional, accredited institution  
12           of higher education as recognized by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Executive Management  
13           Institute Board.

14           (iv) Twenty years of law enforcement, military, or corrections officer  
15           experience as recognized by the Louisiana Peace Officer Standards and Training  
16           Council or the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

17           C.(1) The Louisiana Sheriffs' Certification Program shall be administered  
18           and governed by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Executive Management Institute Board.

19           (2)(a) Documents proving the successful completion of the certification  
20           program shall be submitted to and approved by the board.

21           (b) If a sheriff has been certified to possess any of the above requirements  
22           as provided by Subsection B of this Section by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Executive  
23           Management Institute Board as presented to the legislative auditor, the sheriff shall  
24           be granted a seven percent increase in compensation to his annual salary.

25           (c) A sheriff shall complete the requirements of Subsection B of this Section  
26           in order to receive and retain the seven percent compensation enhancement. The  
27           Louisiana Sheriffs' Certification Program shall not serve as a base salary. If a sheriff  
28           does not meet the requirements as provided in Subsection B of this Section, his  
29           salary shall not be increased.

1                   (d) The provisions of this Section shall become effective on July 1, 2020.

2                   (e) A sheriff who succeeds a sheriff who participated in the Louisiana  
3                   Sheriffs' Certification Program shall not automatically be qualified to participate in  
4                   the program by his election. The successor sheriff shall meet the requirements of  
5                   Subsection B separately and independently of his election to qualify for the  
6                   Louisiana Sheriffs' Certification Program.

7                   Section 2. The provisions of Section 1 of this Act shall not be subject to the  
8 requirements of R.S. 13:5521(E).

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_