

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 140

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

SHERIFFS. Provides for insurance benefits for retired sheriffs and deputies of the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office. (7/1/22)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:5554(G)(4)(d), (e), (f), and (g), relative to insurance benefits for certain
3 sheriffs and deputies; to provide for eligibility requirements for the payment of
4 insurance premium costs for retired sheriffs and deputies of the Acadia Parish
5 Sheriff's Office; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:5554(G)(4)(d), (e), (f), and (g) are hereby enacted to read as
8 follows:

9 §5554. Group insurance; kinds; amounts; subrogation

10 * * *

11 G. * * *

12 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the
13 sheriff of Acadia Parish shall pay out of the sheriff's general fund the premium costs
14 of group insurance for any sheriff or deputy sheriff who is eligible to receive benefits
15 from the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund, as follows:

16 * * *

17 **(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection**

1 and Subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this Paragraph, one hundred percent of
2 the premium costs of group insurance, hospital, surgical, and medical expense
3 insurance and the first ten thousand dollars of life insurance contracted
4 pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be paid in full from the sheriff's
5 general fund for any sheriff, full-time deputy sheriff, or any other employee who
6 has retired from the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office, who is eligible to receive
7 benefits from the Sheriff's Pension and Relief Fund, and who meets all of the
8 following qualifications:

9 (i) Has at least thirty years of creditable service with a statewide
10 retirement system with the final twelve years of continuous full-time creditable
11 service with the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office.

12 (ii) Is at least fifty-five years of age.

13 (e) Insurance benefits provided for in Subparagraph (d) of this
14 Paragraph shall be based on the total amount of creditable service with a
15 statewide retirement system including time earned in the Sheriff's Pension and
16 Relief Fund and the recipient's coverage during the last active year of service
17 with the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office. Coverage of these insurance benefits
18 shall be extended to the recipient's eligible dependents if the recipient requests
19 such coverage.

20 (f) Recipients of insurance pursuant to Subparagraph (d) of this
21 Paragraph are subject to all cost increases or changes to the active insurance
22 plan.

23 (g) The provisions of Subparagraph (d) of this Paragraph shall apply to
24 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs who retire on or after July 1, 2022.

25 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2022; if vetoed by the governor
26 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day
27 following such approval by the legislature or July 1, 2022, whichever is later.

The original instrument was prepared by Alan Miller. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Cathy Wells.

DIGEST

SB 140 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Abraham

Present law requires that any policy or self-insurance plan providing group hospital, surgical, medical expense, or life insurance contracted for under the provisions of present law contain a provision authorizing any covered employee retiring under his sheriff's department retirement plan to elect to continue such coverage upon retirement. Present law authorizes the premium cost of such coverage to be paid in full or in part from the sheriff's general funds or by the retired employee. Present law requires a uniform policy with respect to the payment of such premiums be formulated and applied by each sheriff.

Present law requires the premium costs of group hospital, surgical, medical expense, and dental insurance and the first \$10,000 of life insurance contracted for under the provisions of present law be paid in full from the Acadia parish sheriff's general fund for all Acadia parish sheriffs and deputy sheriffs retired with at least 15 years of service who are at least 55 years of age, or retired with at least 30 years of service at any age, on or after January 1, 2015.

Proposed law requires the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office to pay out of the sheriff's general fund 100% of the premium costs of group insurance, hospital, surgical, and medical expense insurance and the first \$10,000 of life insurance contracted pursuant to proposed law for any sheriff, full-time deputy sheriff, or any other employee who has retired from the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office and who is eligible to receive benefits from the Sheriff's Pension and Relief Fund, and that meets the following qualifications:

- (1) Has at least 30 years of service being in a statewide retirement system with the final 12 years of continuous full-time creditable service with the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office.
- (2) Is at least 55 years of age.

Proposed law requires insurance benefits provided by proposed law to be based on the total amount of creditable service with a statewide retirement system including time earned in the Sheriff's Pension and Relief Fund and the recipient's coverage during the last active year of service with the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office. Proposed law requires coverage of these insurance benefits to be extended to the recipient's eligible dependents if the recipient requests such coverage.

Proposed law provides that recipients of insurance pursuant to proposed law be subject to all cost increases or changes to the active insurance plan.

Proposed law applies to sheriffs and deputy sheriffs who retire on or after August 1, 2022.

Effective July 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 13:5554(G)(4)(d), (e), (f), and (g))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Removes retirement deadline of July 1, 2022.
2. Increases the number of years a person must have in a statewide retirement system from 25 years to 30 years.
3. Makes technical changes.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical corrections.