
DIGEST

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HB 38 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Thompson

Abstract: Creates a permanent fund to pay group insurance premiums and defines the requirements for sheriffs or deputy sheriffs who retire and become eligible for payment of group insurance premium costs from the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office.

Present law provides that the sheriff of Richland Parish shall pay the premium costs of group insurance from the sheriff's general fund for any sheriff or full-time deputy sheriff who is entitled to receive monthly benefits from the Sheriff's Pension and Relief Fund and who retires from the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office upon meeting one of three eligibility requirements.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that any sheriff or deputy sheriff who has attained the age of 55, is eligible to retire, and retires after August 31, 2013, with at least 25 years of creditable service with the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office shall receive 50% of the premium costs of group hospital, surgical, and medical expense insurance and the first \$10,000 of life insurance contracted for under the provisions of present law.

Proposed law expands eligibility to any sheriff or deputy sheriff who first becomes eligible to retire and retires before July 1, 2022.

Present law provides that any sheriff or deputy sheriff who retires with 30 years or more of creditable service with the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office, regardless of age, shall receive 100% of the premium costs of group hospital, surgical, and medical expense insurance and the first \$10,000 of life insurance contracted for under the provisions of present law.

Proposed law expands eligibility to any sheriff or deputy sheriff who first becomes eligible to retire and subsequently retires after August 31, 2013, and before July 1, 2022.

Proposed law provides that any sheriff or deputy sheriff who does not meet the requirements of present law and retires on or after July 1, 2022, from the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office and is eligible to receive benefits from the Sheriff's Pension and Relief Fund and meets the requirements of proposed law shall receive 100% of the premium costs of group hospital, surgical, and medical expense insurance and the first \$10,000 of life insurance contracted for under present law, if the sheriff or deputy sheriff retires with any of the following qualifications:

(1) At least 15 years of creditable service and is at least 60 years of age and has served 12 years

of creditable service with the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office.

- (2) At least 20 years of creditable service and is at least 55 years of age and has served 12 years of creditable service with the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office.
- (3) At least 30 years of creditable service and has served 20 years of creditable service with the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office, regardless of age.

Proposed law creates the Richland Parish Retired Employees Insurance Fund (RREIF), to fund the payment by the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office for the premium costs of insurance for retired sheriffs and deputy sheriffs as provided in present law.

Proposed law provides that the sheriff of Richland Parish may contribute to the RREIF at his discretion.

Proposed law provides that the sheriff shall invest at least 25% in fixed income investments into the RREIF, provided that a minimum of 25% of the fixed income portion is rated as investment grade by a nationally recognized rating agency.

Proposed law provides that earnings realized from investments shall be available for the sheriff to withdraw for the purpose of paying the insurance premium costs, provided that no such earnings shall be withdrawn until the amount of principal and accumulated earnings in the RREIF is equal to the sum of \$2 million. Provides that if the deposits and earnings on investments falls below \$2 million, no earnings shall be withdrawn and any balance owed for the payment of insurance premium costs shall be paid in full from the sheriff's general fund.

Proposed law requires any financial audit by the sheriff's office to comply with all provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the sheriff to establish a three-member investment advisory board consisting of three members as follows:

- (1) The sheriff or his designee.
- (2) One retired sheriff or retired deputy sheriff of the department, appointed by the sheriff, who shall serve a term determined by the sheriff.
- (3) One active deputy sheriff of the department, appointed by the sheriff, who shall serve a term determined by the sheriff.

Proposed law requires the board to meet within 30 days after appointment of members and provides for election of a chairperson at the first meeting of the board.

(Amends R.S. 13:5554(R)(2) and (3); Adds R.S. 13:5554(R)(4) and 5554.8)