

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

FUNDS/FUNDING: Provides for the payment of extraordinary medical and dental expenses of firemen and law enforcement officers

## 1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the heading of Chapter 7-C of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised  
3 Statutes of 1950 and to enact R.S. 39:1533(A)(3) and R.S. 40:1668.1, relative to the  
4 Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor Benefit Review Board; to provide  
5 for the payment of extraordinary medical and dental expenses of firemen and law  
6 enforcement officers injured in the course and scope of employment; to provide for  
7 the duties and powers of the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor  
8 Benefit Review Board; to provide for definitions; to provide for the duties and  
9 powers of the state risk director; to authorize the promulgation of rules; to provide  
10 for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 39:1533(A)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §1533. Self-Insurance Fund

14 A.

15 \* \* \*

16 (3) Payment for extraordinary medical and dental expenses for law  
17 enforcement officers and firemen as provided for in R.S. 40:1668.1 shall be made by  
18 the office of risk management on behalf of the Law Enforcement Officers and

1 Firemen's Survivor Benefit Review Board as a result of a specific appropriation  
2 received for that purpose.

3 \* \* \*

4           Section 2. The heading of Chapter 7-C of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes  
5   of 1950 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1668.1 is hereby enacted to read as  
6   follows:

7 CHAPTER 7-C. FIREMEN AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS -  
8 DISABILITY BENEFITS - EXTRAORDINARY MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXPENSES

9 \* \* \*

10                   §1668.1. Payment for extraordinary medical and dental expenses for firemen and  
11                   law enforcement officers

12                   A. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this state, under its police  
13                   power, to provide for certain extraordinary medical and dental expenses for firemen  
14                   and law enforcement officers determined to be injured as the direct and proximate  
15                   result of an injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of their official  
16                   duties.

17 B. As used in this Section, the following words have the following  
18 meanings:

(1) "Board" means the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor  
Benefit Review Board created and provided for in R.S. 40:1665.3.

21 (2) "Extraordinary medical and dental expenses" means any of the following:

22                    (a) Medical expenses of the injured employee not covered by workers'  
23                    compensation coverage or by the health insurance plan provided by the employer.

24                    (b) Dental expenses of the injured employee not covered by workers'  
25                    compensation coverage or by the health insurance plan provided by the employer.

26 (3) "Law enforcement officer" means the following:

27 (a) All sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in the state employed on a full-time basis.

28 (b) All members of the state police employed on a full-time basis.

29 (c) All municipal police officers in the state employed on a full-time basis.

1           (d) All university and college police officers at state universities and colleges  
2           employed on a full-time basis.

3           (4) "Officer" includes firemen as defined in R.S. 40:1665 and law  
4           enforcement officers as defined in Paragraph (3) of this Subsection.

5           C. In any case in which an officer is injured as the direct and proximate  
6           result of an injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of their official  
7           duties, the state risk director shall pay, as provided by R.S. 39:1533(A)(3), on behalf  
8           of the officer any extraordinary medical and dental expenses incurred as determined  
9           by the board.

10           D.(1) The board shall hear and decide by unanimous vote all claims for  
11           extraordinary medical and dental expenses within sixty days after documentation is  
12           received. The board may request any information necessary to make a determination  
13           of eligibility for the payment of such expenses.

14           (2) Within ten days after the board has reached its decision, it shall send  
15           notice of its decision to the officer by certified mail. If the board denies the claim,  
16           the officer shall have one year from the date of denial to file suit against the state  
17           through the board in the parish where the incident that brought about the injury  
18           occurred. The date of denial shall be calculated as one year from the date of receipt  
19           of the decision from the board.

20           E. If the board determines the officer qualifies for the benefit payable under  
21           this Section, the board shall notify the state risk director.

22           F. The maximum benefit payable shall be fifty thousand dollars per injury  
23           per officer.

24           G. No benefit shall be payable pursuant to this Section if any of the  
25           following applies:

26           (1) The injury was caused by the intentional misconduct of the officer or by  
27           the officer's intention to bring about his death, disability, or injury.

28           (2) The officer was voluntarily intoxicated at the time of his injury.

1                   (3) The officer was performing his duties in a grossly negligent manner at  
2                   the time of his injury.

3                   H. The board may adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions  
4                   of this Section.

5                   I. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to extraordinary medical  
6                   or dental expenses incurred due to an injury arising out of and in the course of  
7                   performance of an officer's duties on or after January 1, 2023.

8                   Section 3. This Act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 145 Original

2026 Regular Session

Chassion

**Abstract:** Provides for the payment of extraordinary medical and dental expenses of firemen and law enforcement officers injured in the course of their official duties.

Proposed law provides for the payment of extraordinary medical and dental expenses of firemen and law enforcement officers injured in the course of their official duties. Limits the maximum benefit payable to \$50,000 per injury per officer.

Proposed law expands the powers and duties of the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor Benefit Review Board to hear and decide claims for extraordinary medical and dental expenses. Requires approval by the board of the extraordinary medical and dental expenses of firemen and law enforcement officers injured in the course of their official duties. Allows the board to adopt rules and regulations.

Proposed law requires the state risk director to pay extraordinary medical and dental expenses from the Self-Insurance Fund.

Proposed law applies to extraordinary medical or dental expenses incurred due to an injury arising out of and in the course of performance of an officer's duties on or after Jan. 1, 2023.

Effective July 1, 2026.

(Amends the heading of Chapter 7-C of Title 40 of the La. Revised Statutes of 1950; Adds R.S. 39:1533(A)(3) and R.S. 40:1668.1)