

Bill No. SB 2978

Barcode 305520

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Comm: WD  
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The Committee on Governmental Operations (King) recommended  
the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment**

On page 13, line 27, through  
page 18, line 5, delete those lines

and insert: full-time, creditable service ~~under the Florida Retirement System~~. The health insurance costs payable pursuant to this section include premiums for major medical and hospitalization insurance, but do not include premiums for dental or vision insurance. Upon becoming eligible for Medicare, a retiree's Sheriff's office health coverage will become a secondary payer. ~~When a retiree receiving this health insurance benefit becomes eligible for Medicare, his health coverage will convert to the Medicare Supplement health insurance.~~

~~(a) In order to receive this benefit, the retiree must have served with the Lee County Sheriff's Office for the 10 years immediately preceding his retirement. The retiree may claim up to 5 years of creditable service earned while in the~~

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1 ~~employ of another member agency within the Florida Retirement~~  
 2 ~~System. The Lee County Sheriff's Office shall verify all years~~  
 3 ~~of creditable service claimed through the Division of~~  
 4 ~~Retirement of the Department of Administration.~~

5       (3)(c) The benefits provided in this section are  
 6 available only to an employee who retires after 15 years of  
 7 full-time service with the Lee County Sheriff's Office and who  
 8 has participated in the Florida Retirement System (FRS) for a  
 9 minimum of 15 years of creditable service. A retiree may claim  
 10 up to 5 years of creditable service with another FRS employer  
 11 provided that the last 10 years of employment must have been  
 12 with the Lee County Sheriff's Office in a full-time position.

13 All years of creditable service with another Florida  
 14 Retirement System employer are subject to verification from  
 15 the Division of Retirement of the Department of Management  
 16 Services. An employee is considered retired from the Florida  
 17 Retirement System at such time as he or she meets the  
 18 definition of "retiree" as described in section 121.021(60) or  
 19 section 121.4501(2)(j), Florida Statutes. The Lee County  
 20 Sheriff's Office shall base the percentage of a retiree's  
 21 health insurance costs it will pay upon the number of years of  
 22 creditable service that the retiree has accumulated in the  
 23 Florida Retirement System. Fifteen years of creditable service  
 24 entitles the retiree to have 75 percent of his health  
 25 insurance premiums paid by the sheriff's office. The sheriff's  
 26 office shall pay an additional 5 percent of the insurance  
 27 premiums for each year of service in excess of 15 years until  
 28 reaching a maximum of 100 percent of the premium at 20 years  
 29 of service. The Lee County Sheriff's Office shall pay an  
 30 additional one twelfth of 1 percent of the premium for each  
 31 month served until the full 100 percent is paid.

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1            ~~(4)(b)~~ If an employee retires from the Lee County  
2 Sheriff's Office after at least 15 ~~10~~ years of full-time,  
3 creditable service ~~with the department, as provided in~~  
4 subsection (3), but prior to receiving a retirement benefit  
5 from the Florida Retirement System, he or she may continue  
6 receiving group health insurance benefits, individual or  
7 family, by paying the current premium rate to the Lee County  
8 Sheriff's Office until he or she receives a benefit from the  
9 Florida Retirement System. Upon written notification and  
10 documentation to the Lee County Sheriff's Office that the  
11 employee is a retiree who is part of the Florida Retirement  
12 System, the Sheriff's office will begin to pay a percentage of  
13 the retiree's, and dependent's if qualified, health insurance  
14 premium costs. but before reaching retirement age, and has  
15 participated in the Florida Retirement System for at least 15  
16 years, he may pay his and his dependent's health insurance  
17 costs until he begins to receive retirement benefits under the  
18 Florida Retirement System. The Lee County Sheriff's Office  
19 shall begin to pay a percentage of the employee's health  
20 insurance costs when he begins to receive such retirement  
21 benefits. The retiree shall give the sheriff's office written  
22 notice of the date of payment of his initial retirement  
23 benefit. The Lee County Sheriff's Office shall verify this  
24 date through the Division of Retirement of the Department of  
25 Administration.

26            (5) The percentage of a retiree's health insurance  
27 premiums costs payable by the Lee County Sheriff's Office is  
28 dependent on the following schedule: at 15 years of full-time,  
29 creditable service, as outlined in subsection (3), the  
30 Sheriff's office will pay 75 percent of the retiree's health  
31 insurance premium costs. For each additional year of

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1 full-time, creditable service beyond the 15-year mark, the  
 2 Sheriff's office will pay an additional 5 percent of the  
 3 health insurance premium costs until the maximum of 100  
 4 percent of the health insurance premium is paid at 20 years of  
 5 service. Fractional years will be paid at the rate of .416  
 6 percent per month. In no case will the Sheriff's office pay in  
 7 excess of 100 percent of the retiree's health insurance  
 8 premium.

9       (6)(d) If an retiree is entitled to a ~~an employee has~~  
 10 health insurance benefit from ~~coverage through~~ a previous  
 11 employer, then the Lee County Sheriff's Office will be a the  
 12 secondary payor to that policy.

13       (7)(e) If a retiree receives a ~~an employee receives a~~  
 14 retiree health insurance subsidy from the state under section  
 15 112.363, Florida Statutes, then the Lee County Sheriff's  
 16 Office will ~~shall~~ reduce the amount of any ~~it pays of the~~  
 17 ~~employee's~~ health insurance premium it pays on behalf of the  
 18 retiree ~~premiums~~ by an ~~the~~ amount equal to the value of the  
 19 subsidy.

20       (8)(f) For retired employees having at least 15 years,  
 21 but less than 20 years of full-time, creditable service as  
 22 defined in subsection (3), the Lee County Sheriff's Office  
 23 shall pay for a percentage of the health insurance ~~coverage of~~  
 24 the retiree. Retirees in this category may purchase health  
 25 insurance for their spouse or qualified dependents at the  
 26 prevailing Lee County Sheriff's Office group rate. For retired  
 27 employees having 20 years or more of full-time, creditable  
 28 service as defined in subsection (3), the Lee County Sheriff's  
 29 Office shall pay 100 percent of the retiree's health insurance  
 30 premium and 50 percent of the retiree's spouse or qualified  
 31 dependent's health insurance premium ~~and 50 percent of his or~~

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1 ~~her dependents' health insurance coverage only if the~~  
 2 ~~retiree's health insurance is paid at 100 percent of the~~  
 3 ~~premium at 20 years of service. A retiree who obtains benefits~~  
 4 ~~without attaining 20 years of service may pay for the health~~  
 5 ~~insurance of his or her dependents. Upon a retiree's death,~~  
 6 his or her spouse may continue any ~~the~~ health insurance  
 7 coverage previously provided by the retiree and qualified  
 8 spouses are entitled to the reduced premium rate. All premiums  
 9 must be paid to the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

10       (9)(g) Retirement ~~This retiree~~ health insurance  
 11 benefits are ~~benefit is~~ only available to an employee at the  
 12 time he or she ~~when he~~ retires from the Lee County Sheriff's  
 13 Office, has accumulated the minimum number of full-time,  
 14 creditable service years as provided in subsection (3), and is  
 15 a participant in the Florida Retirement System. If an ~~the~~  
 16 employee chooses not ~~does not elect~~ to receive retirement  
 17 health ~~the~~ insurance benefits at retirement ~~benefit upon~~  
 18 retiring, he or she does not have the option of receiving  
 19 these benefits ~~the benefit~~ at a later date, except as provided  
 20 in subsection (4). Benefits must be applied for within 60 days  
 21 of the last physical day of work. It is the responsibility of  
 22 the retiree to notify the Lee County Sheriff's Office if he or  
 23 she continued insurance benefits under subsection (4) and  
 24 later becomes part of the Florida Retirement System.

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