

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Lee County Sheriff's Office;
 3 amending chapter 74-522, Laws of Florida, as amended;
 4 providing that the sheriff has the burden of proving just
 5 cause in an appeal of disciplinary action; providing that
 6 certain retirement health insurance benefits shall not be
 7 available to employees commencing employment after a
 8 specified date; providing an effective date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 13 and subsections
 13 (5) and (6) of section 15 of chapter 74-522, Laws of Florida, as
 14 amended by chapters 2007-320 and 2008-276, Laws of Florida, are
 15 amended to read:

16 Section 13. Discipline; suspensions; dismissal; appeals.-

17 (2) At the hearing, the sheriff ~~employee~~ has the burden of
 18 proving ~~that the Sheriff lacked~~ just cause supported by
 19 competent and substantial evidence for the disciplinary action
 20 under appeal.

21 Section 15. Funding of civil service board and retirement
 22 health insurance benefits.-

23 (5) Retirement health insurance benefits for employees
 24 with 15 or more years of service; employer premium payments.-
 25 Effective October 1, 1986, and thereafter, it is the duty of the
 26 Sheriff of Lee County to provide annually in his or her budget a
 27 sufficient sum of money to pay a portion of the cost of the
 28 health and hospitalization insurance premiums for employees of

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29 | the Lee County Sheriff's Office who retire after having
30 | accumulated at least 15 or more years of full-time, active
31 | service with the office. Employer premiums payable under this
32 | provision are limited to major medical and hospitalization
33 | insurance and do not include premiums for dental or vision
34 | insurance. Retirees may purchase, at their expense, individual
35 | or family group dental insurance or vision insurance, or both.
36 | The benefits payable under this subsection shall not be
37 | available to any individual commencing employment with the Lee
38 | County Sheriff's Office on or after October 1, 2010.

39 | (6) Benefits payable under subsection (5).—Benefits
40 | payable under subsection (5) are only available to employees
41 | commencing employment on or after October 1, 1986, and prior to
42 | October 1, 2010, who retire from the Florida Retirement System
43 | and terminate employment after 15 or more years of service with
44 | the Lee County Sheriff's Office. A member of the Florida
45 | Retirement System employed prior to October 1, 2009, who has
46 | been a full-time member of the Lee County Sheriff's Office for
47 | the 10 years immediately preceding his or her retirement may
48 | claim up to 5 years of previous service with another Florida
49 | Retirement System employer subject to verification by the
50 | Division of Retirement of the Department of Management Services
51 | to meet the 15-year requirement as provided for in subsection
52 | (5). Persons hired by the Lee County Sheriff's Office on or
53 | after October 1, 2009, are not eligible to claim additional
54 | years of service from previous Florida Retirement System
55 | employers to qualify for employer-paid health and

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56 | hospitalization insurance benefits as provided for in subsection
57 | (5).

58 | Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.