

By Senator Richter

37-01709-10

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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
5 just cause in an appeal of disciplinary action;
6 providing that certain retirement health insurance
7 benefits shall not be available to employees
8 commencing employment after a specified date;
9 providing an effective date.

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

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

17 Section 13. Discipline; suspensions; dismissal; appeals.—

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

22 Section 15. Funding of civil service board and retirement
23 health insurance benefits.—

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

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

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

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