

By Senator Leek

7-01628-25

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to benefits for certain officers  
3           injured in the line of duty; amending s. 112.19, F.S.;  
4           revising eligibility criteria for health insurance  
5           coverage provided to law enforcement, correctional,  
6           and correctional probation officers injured in the  
7           line of duty and to their spouses and dependent  
8           children; providing an effective date.

9  
10   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11  
12           Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section  
13   112.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14           112.19 Law enforcement, correctional, and correctional  
15   probation officers; death benefits.—

16           (2)

17           (h)1. Any employer who employs a full-time law enforcement,  
18   correctional, or correctional probation officer who, on or after  
19   January 1, 1995, suffers a catastrophic injury, as defined in s.  
20   440.02, Florida Statutes 2002, in the line of duty shall pay the  
21   entire premium of the employer's health insurance plan for the  
22   injured employee, the injured employee's spouse, and for each  
23   dependent child of the injured employee until the child reaches  
24   the age of majority or until the end of the calendar year in  
25   which the child reaches the age of 25 if the child continues to  
26   be dependent for support, or the child is a full-time or part-  
27   time student and is dependent for support. The term "health  
28   insurance plan" does not include supplemental benefits that are  
29   not part of the basic group health insurance plan. If the

7-01628-25

20251160\_\_

30 injured employee subsequently dies, the employer must ~~shall~~  
31 continue to pay the entire health insurance premium for the  
32 surviving spouse until remarried, and for the dependent  
33 children, under the conditions outlined in this paragraph.  
34 However:

35 a. Health insurance benefits payable from any other source  
36 ~~shall~~ reduce benefits payable under this section.

37 b. It is unlawful for a person to willfully and knowingly  
38 make, or cause to be made, or to assist, conspire with, or urge  
39 another to make, or cause to be made, any false, fraudulent, or  
40 misleading oral or written statement to obtain health insurance  
41 coverage as provided under this paragraph. A person who violates  
42 this sub-subparagraph commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,  
43 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

44 c. In addition to any applicable criminal penalty, upon  
45 conviction for a violation as described in sub-subparagraph b.,  
46 a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation  
47 officer or other beneficiary who receives or seeks to receive  
48 health insurance benefits under this paragraph forfeits ~~shall~~  
49 ~~forfeit~~ the right to receive such health insurance benefits, and  
50 must ~~shall~~ reimburse the employer for all benefits paid due to  
51 the fraud or other prohibited activity. For purposes of this  
52 sub-subparagraph, the term "conviction" means a determination of  
53 guilt that is the result of a plea or trial, regardless of  
54 whether adjudication is withheld.

55 2. In order for the officer, spouse, and dependent children  
56 to be eligible for such insurance coverage, the injury must have  
57 occurred while the officer was in the line of duty or in an  
58 official training ~~as the result of the officer's response to~~

7-01628-25

20251160\_\_

59 ~~fresh pursuit, the officer's response to what is reasonably~~  
60 ~~believed to be an emergency, or an unlawful act perpetrated by~~  
61 ~~another.~~ Except as otherwise provided herein, this paragraph may  
62 not be construed to limit health insurance coverage for which  
63 the officer, spouse, or dependent children may otherwise be  
64 eligible, except that a person who qualifies under this section  
65 is not eligible for the health insurance subsidy provided under  
66 chapter 121, chapter 175, or chapter 185.

67 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.