

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;
and Senator Leek

585-03153-25

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to benefits for certain officers
injured in the line of duty; amending s. 112.19, F.S.;
revising eligibility criteria for health insurance
coverage provided to law enforcement, correctional,
and correctional probation officers injured in the
line of duty and to their spouses and dependent
children; providing a declaration of an important
state interest; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

(2)

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

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not part of the basic group health insurance plan. If the injured employee subsequently dies, the employer must ~~shall~~ continue to pay the entire health insurance premium for the surviving spouse until remarried, and for the dependent children, under the conditions outlined in this paragraph.

However:

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

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

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

2. In order for the officer, spouse, and dependent children to be eligible for such insurance coverage, the injury must have occurred while the officer was in the line of duty or in an

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

68 Section 2. The Legislature determines and declares that
69 this act fulfills an important state interest.

70 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.