

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to law enforcement, correctional, and
3 correctional probation officer benefits; providing a
4 short title; amending s. 112.19, F.S.; providing that
5 a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional
6 probation officer and his or her spouse and dependent
7 children are eligible for certain insurance coverage
8 if the officer is injured in the line of duty or while
9 engaged in an official training exercise; providing a
10 declaration of important state interest; providing an
11 effective date.

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

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15 **Section 1.** This act may be cited as the "Deputy Andy
16 Lahera Act."

17 **Section 2. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section**
18 **112.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

19 112.19 Law enforcement, correctional, and correctional
20 probation officers; death benefits.—

21 (2)

22 (h)1. Any employer who employs a full-time law
23 enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer
24 who, on or after January 1, 1995, suffers a catastrophic injury,
25 as defined in s. 440.02, Florida Statutes 2002, in the line of

26 duty shall pay the entire premium of the employer's health
27 insurance plan for the injured employee, the injured employee's
28 spouse, and for each dependent child of the injured employee
29 until the child reaches the age of majority or until the end of
30 the calendar year in which the child reaches the age of 25 if
31 the child continues to be dependent for support, or the child is
32 a full-time or part-time student and is dependent for support.
33 The term "health insurance plan" does not include supplemental
34 benefits that are not part of the basic group health insurance
35 plan. If the injured employee subsequently dies, the employer
36 shall continue to pay the entire health insurance premium for
37 the surviving spouse until remarried, and for the dependent
38 children, under the conditions outlined in this paragraph.

39 However:

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

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

49 c. In addition to any applicable criminal penalty, upon
50 conviction for a violation as described in sub-subparagraph b.,

51 a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation
52 officer or other beneficiary who receives or seeks to receive
53 health insurance benefits under this paragraph shall forfeit the
54 right to receive such health insurance benefits, and shall
55 reimburse the employer for all benefits paid due to the fraud or
56 other prohibited activity. For purposes of this sub-
57 subparagraph, the term "conviction" means a determination of
58 guilt that is the result of a plea or trial, regardless of
59 whether adjudication is withheld.

60 2. In order for the officer, spouse, and dependent
61 children to be eligible for such insurance coverage, the injury
62 must have occurred while the officer was in the line of duty or
63 engaged in an official training exercise ~~as the result of the~~
64 ~~officer's response to fresh pursuit, the officer's response to~~
65 ~~what is reasonably believed to be an emergency, or an unlawful~~
66 ~~act perpetrated by another.~~ Except as otherwise provided herein,
67 this paragraph may not be construed to limit health insurance
68 coverage for which the officer, spouse, or dependent children
69 may otherwise be eligible, except that a person who qualifies
70 under this section is not eligible for the health insurance
71 subsidy provided under chapter 121, chapter 175, or chapter 185.

72 **Section 3.** The Legislature determines and declares that
73 this act fulfills an important state interest.

74 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.