

2019 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 25

BY SENATOR WARD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SHERIFFS. Provides for insurance benefits for retirees of the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office. (7/1/19)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:5554(G)(9) and (LL), relative to the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office; to provide for insurance premium payments for sheriff and deputy sheriff retirees; to provide for applicability; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 13:5554(G)(9) and (LL) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§5554. Group insurance; kinds; amounts; subrogation

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G.

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(9) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, as applicable to the sheriff's office of Pointe Coupee Parish, shall apply to any sheriff or deputy sheriff who was hired before May 20, 2008, and retired before May 20, 2008. The provisions of Subsection (LL) of this Section shall apply to any sheriff or deputy sheriff who is hired before July 1, 2019, and retires on or after May 20, 2008, and to any sheriff or deputy sheriff who is hired on or after July 1, 2019.

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2 LL.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection D of this Section,
3 in the parish of Pointe Coupee, for any sheriff or deputy sheriff hired before
4 July 1, 2019, who retires after May 20, 2008, the sheriff of Pointe Coupee Parish
5 shall pay in full from the sheriff's general fund the premium costs of group
6 hospital, surgical, medical expense, and dental insurance, and the first ten
7 thousand dollars of life insurance contracted for under the provisions of this
8 Section for any sheriff or full-time deputy sheriff who retires directly from
9 active service with the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office and who meets the
10 criteria in either of the following Subparagraphs:

11 (a) Has at least fifteen years of full-time service with Pointe Coupee
12 Parish Sheriff's Office and is at least fifty-five years of age.

13 (b) Has at least twenty years of full-time service, at least twelve of which
14 is with the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office.

15 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection D of this Section, in the
16 parish of Pointe Coupee, for any sheriff or deputy sheriff hired on and after
17 July 1, 2019, the sheriff of Pointe Coupee Parish shall pay in full from the
18 sheriff's general fund the premium costs of group hospital, surgical, medical
19 expense, and dental insurance, and the first ten thousand dollars of life
20 insurance contracted for under the provisions of this Section for any sheriff or
21 full-time deputy sheriff who retires directly from active service with the Pointe
22 Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office and who meets the criteria in all of the following
23 Subparagraphs:

24 (a) Is entitled to receive benefits from the Sheriff's Pension and Relief
25 Fund.

26 (b) Has at least fifteen years of full-time service with the Pointe Coupee
27 Parish Sheriff's Office.

28 (c) Is at least fifty-five years of age.

29 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2019.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST

SB 25 Original

2019 Regular Session

Ward

Present law requires the sheriff of each parish to pay insurance premiums for certain coverage on the sheriff and sheriff deputies and permits similar coverage for dependents of the sheriff and dependents of sheriff deputies. Authorizes the sheriff to contract with any insurance company authorized to do business in Louisiana to provide group life and accidental death and dismemberment, group health, accident, dental, hospital, surgical, or other medical expense and group disability insurance on the sheriff's office employees and their dependents; also allows a sheriff to secure such coverage through the Sheriff's Association Self-Insurance Plan.

Present law requires that any policy or self-insurance plan providing group hospital, surgical, medical expense or life insurance contracted for shall contain a provision authorizing any covered employee retiring under his sheriff's department retirement plan to elect to continue such coverage upon retirement. Further provides that the premium cost of such coverage may be paid in full or in part from the sheriff's general funds or by the retired employee, and that a uniform policy with respect to the payment of such premiums shall be formulated and applied by each sheriff.

Present law provides that, notwithstanding present law, the sheriff of certain parishes, including Pointe Coupee, pay in full from the sheriff's general fund the premium costs of group hospital, surgical, medical expense, and dental insurance and the first \$10,000 of life insurance contracted for under present law for any sheriff or deputy sheriff of their respective office who retires with:

- (1) At least 15 years of service and is at least 55 years of age; or
- (2) At least 30 years of service.

Proposed law retains present law for the sheriffs and deputy sheriffs of the Pointe Coupee Sheriff's Office that were hired before May 20, 2008, and retired before May 20, 2008.

Proposed law provides that, in the parish of Pointe Coupee, for sheriffs and deputy sheriffs who were hired before July 1, 2019, and retire on or after May 20, 2008, the sheriff shall pay in full from the sheriff's general fund the premium costs of group hospital, surgical, medical expense, and dental insurance and the first \$10,000 of life insurance contracted for under present law for any sheriff or full-time deputy sheriff who retires directly from active service with the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office and who:

- (1) Has at least 15 years of full-time service with Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office and is at least 55 years of age; or
- (2) Has at least 20 years of full-time service, at least 12 of which are with the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office.

Proposed law provides that, in the parish of Pointe Coupee, for sheriffs and deputy sheriffs who were hired on or after July 1, 2019, the sheriff shall pay in full from the sheriff's general fund the premium costs of group hospital, surgical, medical expense, and dental insurance and the first \$10,000 of life insurance contracted for under present law for any sheriff or full-time deputy sheriff who retires directly from active service with the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office and who:

- (1) Is entitled to receive benefits from the Sheriff's Pension and Relief Fund; and
- (2) Has at least 15 years of full-time service with the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office; and
- (3) Is at least 55 years of age.

Effective July 1, 2019.

(Adds RS 13:5554(G)(9) and (LL))