

# ACT No. 621

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact the heading of Chapter 7-C of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and to enact R.S. 39:1533(A)(3) and R.S. 40:1668.1, relative to the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor Benefit Review Board; to provide for the payment of extraordinary medical and dental expenses of firemen and law enforcement officers injured in the course and scope of employment; to provide for the duties and powers of the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor Benefit Review Board; to provide for definitions; to provide for the duties and powers of the state risk director; to authorize the promulgation of rules; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 39:1533(A)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1533. Self-Insurance Fund

A.

\* \* \*

(3) Payment for extraordinary medical and dental expenses for law enforcement officers and firemen as provided for in R.S. 40:1668.1 shall be made by the office of risk management on behalf of the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor Benefit Review Board as a result of a specific appropriation received for that purpose.

\* \* \*

1 Section 2. The heading of Chapter 7-C of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes  
2 of 1950 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1668.1 is hereby enacted to read as  
3 follows:

4 CHAPTER 7-C. FIREMEN AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS -  
5 DISABILITY BENEFITS - EXTRAORDINARY MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXPENSES

6 \* \* \*

7 §1668.1. Payment for extraordinary medical and dental expenses for firemen and  
8 law enforcement officers

9 A. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this state, under its police  
10 power, to provide for certain extraordinary medical and dental expenses for firemen  
11 and law enforcement officers determined to be injured as the direct and proximate  
12 result of an injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of their official  
13 duties.

14 B. As used in this Section, the following words have the following  
15 meanings:

16 (1) "Board" means the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor  
17 Benefit Review Board created and provided for in R.S. 40:1665.3.

18 (2) "Extraordinary medical and dental expenses" means any of the following:

19 (a) Medical expenses of the injured employee not covered by workers'  
20 compensation coverage or by the health insurance plan provided by the employer.

21 (b) Dental expenses of the injured employee not covered by workers'  
22 compensation coverage or by the health insurance plan provided by the employer.

23 (3) "Law enforcement officer" includes the following:

24 (a) All sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in the state employed on a full-time basis.

25 (b) All members of the state police employed on a full-time basis.

26 (c) All municipal police officers in the state employed on a full-time basis.

27 (d) All university and college police officers at state universities and colleges  
28 employed on a full-time basis.

29 (4) "Officer" includes firemen as defined in R.S. 40:1665 and law  
30 enforcement officers as defined in Paragraph (3) of this Subsection.

1           C. In any case in which an officer is injured as the direct and proximate  
2           result of an injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of their official  
3           duties, the state risk director shall pay, as provided by R.S. 39:1533(A)(3), on behalf  
4           of the officer any extraordinary medical and dental expenses incurred as determined  
5           by the board.

6           D.(1) The board shall hear and decide by unanimous vote all claims for  
7           extraordinary medical and dental expenses within sixty days after documentation is  
8           received. The board may request any information necessary to make a determination  
9           of eligibility for the payment of such expenses.

10           (2) Within ten days after the board has reached its decision, it shall send  
11           notice of its decision to the officer by certified mail. If the board denies the claim,  
12           the officer shall have one year from the date of denial to file suit against the state  
13           through the board in the parish where the incident that brought about the injury  
14           occurred. The date of denial shall be calculated as one year from the date of receipt  
15           of the decision from the board.

16           E. If the board determines the officer qualifies for the benefit payable under  
17           this Section, the board shall notify the state risk director.

18           F. The maximum benefit payable shall be twenty-five thousand dollars per  
19           injury per officer.

20           G. No benefit shall be payable pursuant to this Section if any of the  
21           following applies:

22           (1) The injury was caused by the intentional misconduct of the officer or by  
23           the officer's intention to bring about his death, disability, or injury.

24           (2) The officer was voluntarily intoxicated at the time of his injury.

25           (3) The officer was performing his duties in a grossly negligent manner at  
26           the time of his injury.

27           H. The board may adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions  
28           of this Section.

1                    I. The provisions of this Section shall be applicable to extraordinary medical  
2                    or dental expenses incurred due to an injury arising out of and in the course of the  
3                    performance of an officer's duties on or after January 1, 2023.  
4                    Section 3. This Act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_