

CHAPTER 2023-145

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 535

An act relating to funeral service benefits for public safety officers; providing a short title; amending s. 112.061, F.S.; authorizing travel expenses for certain members of a law enforcement agency for a specified purpose; amending s. 112.19, F.S.; increasing the amount of money to be paid toward the funeral and burial expenses of certain officers killed in the line of duty; creating s. 112.1921, F.S.; authorizing a certain number of hours of administrative leave to be granted to certain members of a law enforcement agency for a specified purpose; authorizing the head of a law enforcement agency to deny such administrative leave under certain circumstances; amending s. 287.17, F.S.; authorizing the use of a state motor vehicle to attend a funeral within the state of a law enforcement officer who was killed in the line of duty; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Respecting Their Sacrifice Act.”

Section 2. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (3) of section 112.061, Florida Statutes, to read:

112.061 Per diem and travel expenses of public officers, employees, and authorized persons; statewide travel management system.—

(3) AUTHORITY TO INCUR TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(i) The head of a law enforcement agency may authorize travel expenses for an employee of the agency whose duties are those of a law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), to attend a funeral service within the state of a law enforcement officer who was killed in the line of duty.

Section 3. Paragraph (f) 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)

(f) If a full-time law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer who is certified pursuant to chapter 943 and employed by a state agency is killed in the line of duty while the officer is engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties or as a result of an assault against the officer under riot conditions:

1. The sum of ~~\$10,000~~ \$1,000 must be paid, as provided for in paragraph (d), toward the funeral and burial expenses of such officer. Such benefits are in addition to any other benefits to which employee beneficiaries and dependents are entitled under the Workers' Compensation Law or any other state or federal statutes; and

2. The officer's employing agency may pay up to \$5,000 directly toward the venue expenses associated with the funeral and burial services of such officer.

Section 4. Section 112.1921, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.1921 Administrative leave for law enforcement officers.—The head of a law enforcement agency may grant administrative leave, not to exceed 8 hours, to an employee of the agency whose duties are those of a law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), to attend a funeral service within the state of a law enforcement officer who was killed in the line of duty. The head of the law enforcement agency may deny the use of administrative leave under this section in order to maintain minimum or adequate staffing requirements.

Section 5. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of section 287.17, Florida Statutes, to read:

287.17 Limitation on use of motor vehicles and aircraft.—

(3)

(c) For motor vehicles used by a state employee whose duties are those of a law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), the term "official state business" shall be construed to permit the use of the vehicle to attend a funeral service within the state of a law enforcement officer who was killed in the line of duty if such use is at the direction of or with the permission of the agency head.

Section 6. This act shall take effect October 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor May 25, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 25, 2023.