

CHAPTER 2025-131

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 751

An act relating to law enforcement, correctional, and correctional probation officer benefits; providing a short title; amending s. 112.19, F.S.; providing that a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer and his or her spouse and dependent children are eligible for certain insurance coverage if the officer is injured in the line of duty or while engaged in an official training exercise; providing a declaration of important state interest; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Deputy Andy Lahera Act.”

Section 2. 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 not part of the basic group health insurance plan. If the injured employee subsequently dies, the employer 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 shall forfeit the right to receive such health insurance benefits, and 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 engaged in an official training exercise as the result of the officer’s response to fresh pursuit, the officer’s response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency, or an unlawful act perpetrated by another. Except as otherwise provided herein, this paragraph may not be construed to limit health insurance coverage for which the officer, spouse, or dependent children may otherwise be eligible, except that a person who qualifies under this section is not eligible for the health insurance subsidy provided under chapter 121, chapter 175, or chapter 185.

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

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

Approved by the Governor June 10, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 10, 2025.