

ARKANSAS SENATE

94th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2023

Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1257

TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO CERTAIN MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS; AND TO AMEND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF CERTAIN RETIREES.

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 1257

Amend House Bill No. 1257 as engrossed H2/14/23 (version: 2/14/2023 9:54:16 AM):

Delete the title in its entirety, and substitute the following:

"AN ACT TO EXPAND HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN POLICE OFFICER RETIREES OF MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Delete the subtitle in its entirety, and substitute the following:

"TO EXPAND HEALTH BENEFIT COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN POLICE OFFICER RETIREES OF MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES."

AND

Delete everything after the enacting clause, and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

14-1-108. Coverage for eligible police officer retirees.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "County" means any county in this state;

(2) "Dependent" means a participant or an eligible police

officer retiree's:

(A) Natural child, stepchild, or adopted child who is eligible for coverage under a plan of an eligible police officer retiree; and

(B) Spouse who is eligible for coverage under a plan of an eligible police officer retiree;



(3) "Eligible police officer retiree" means a police officer who is:

(A) Employed as a police officer;

(B)(i) Eligible to retire with full retirement benefits

under:

(a) The Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System under § 24-10-101 et seq.;

(b) Any municipal or county retirement benefit system or plan for employees;

(c) Any local policemen's pension and relief fund under § 24-11-101 et seq.; or

(d) The Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System under § 24-4-101 et seq.

(ii) As used in this subdivision (3)(B), "eligible to retire with full retirement benefits" means a police officer who is:

(a) Any age with twenty-eight (28) years of credited service;

(b) At least fifty-five (55) years of age and has at least twenty (20) years of credited service;

(c) At least sixty (60) years of age and has at least five (5) years of credited service; or

(d) At least sixty (60) years of age and has at least ten (10) years of actual Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System service credit; and

(C) Not eligible for Medicare enrollment;

(4) "Health benefit plan" means a plan for health benefits offered by a municipality or county;

(5) "Municipality" means:

(A) A city of the first class;

(B) A city of the second class; or

(C) An incorporated town; and

(6) "Police officer" means:

(A) Any law enforcement officer engaged in official duty who is a member of any regular or auxiliary police force of a municipality or county on a full-time or part-time basis;

(B) A sheriff or deputy sheriff of a county who is engaged in official duty; or

(C) A constable or night marshal of a municipality engaged in official duty.

(b)(1)(A) An eligible police officer retiree may elect to participate in a health benefit plan after retirement.

(B) The eligible police officer retiree is eligible under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section until the eligible police officer retiree is a Medicare-eligible person.

(C)(i) An eligible police officer retiree shall have a guaranteed issue period of sixty (60) calendar days from the date of retirement to enroll in the health benefit plan.

(ii) If the eligible police officer retiree does not elect to participate or declines to participate in the health benefit plan upon the expiration of sixty (60) calendar days under subdivision

(b)(1)(C)(i) of this section, the eligible police officer retiree has no further privileges under the health benefit plan.

(2) An eligible police officer retiree who elects to participate in the health benefit plan shall pay a premium as determined by the municipality or county or the cost of the policy issued to the eligible police officer retiree.

(3) The eligible police officer retiree portion of the premium shall be deducted from a bank account of the eligible police officer retiree participant, to be paid by a monthly bank draft on the date designated by the municipality or county.

(c) A dependent of an eligible police officer retiree is eligible to participate in the health benefit plan.

(d) An eligible police officer retiree shall not be charged a surcharge or assessment to enroll in the health benefit plan.

(e)(1) If an eligible police officer retiree dies and has covered dependents at the time of death, the dependents have the right to continue to participate in the health benefit plan through the municipality or county.

(2) Dependent children of a deceased eligible police officer retiree may continue to participate in the health benefit plan until marriage or until the maximum age limit for a dependent child has been reached.

(3) A surviving spouse of a deceased eligible police officer retiree may continue to participate in the health benefit plan.

(4) If a surviving spouse or dependent of a deceased eligible police officer declines to participate in the health benefit plan or cancels existing participation, then the surviving spouse or dependent has no further privileges under the health benefit plan.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. RETROACTIVITY. An eligible police officer retiree who retired between January 1, 2017, and the effective date of this act shall have a guaranteed issue period of ninety (90) days."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____
By: Senator K. Hammer
ANS/ANS - 04-03-2023 18:05:34
ANS423

Secretary