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HOUSE BILL NO. 2557

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance
on February 14, 2007)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Cox)

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 9.1-403 and 51.1-1132 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance coverage for state law-enforcement officers receiving work-related disability benefits.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 9.1-403 and 51.1-1132 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 9.1-403. Claim for payment; costs.

A. Every beneficiary, disabled person or his spouse, or dependent of a deceased or disabled person shall present his claim to the chief officer, or his designee, of the appropriate division or department that last employed the deceased or disabled person on forms to be provided by the State Comptroller's office. The chief officer or his designee shall submit a request to the Superintendent of the Department of the State Police, who shall investigate and report upon the circumstances surrounding the deceased or disabled person, calling upon the additional information and services of any other appropriate agents or agencies of the Commonwealth. The Superintendent, or his designee, shall report his findings to the Comptroller within ten business days after completion of the investigation. The Department of State Police shall take action to conduct the investigation as expeditiously as possible. The Department shall be reimbursed for the cost of investigations conducted pursuant to this section from the appropriate employer that last employed the deceased or disabled employee.

B. *Within 10 business days of being notified by an employee, or an employee's representative, that such employee is permanently and totally disabled due to a work-related injury suffered in the line of duty, the agency or department employing the disabled person shall provide him with information about the continued health insurance coverage provided under this act and the process for initiating a claim. The employer shall assist in filing a claim, unless such assistance is waived by the employee or the employee's representative.*

§ 51.1-1132. Health insurance coverage during disability absences.

A. Participating employees enrolled in a health insurance plan established pursuant to § 2.2-2818 shall continue to be covered during periods of short-term disability and shall have the option of continuing to be covered by such plan during periods of absence covered by long-term disability benefits.

B. The Commonwealth shall pay the employer's share of the cost of health insurance coverage under such plan for participating employees and for the families or dependents of such employees during periods the employee is receiving short-term disability benefits to the same extent as for other state employees covered by such plan.

C. Participating employees enrolled in such plan established pursuant to § 2.2-2818 shall have the option of continuing to be covered under such plan, and shall pay the full cost for coverage under such plan for themselves and for their families and dependents during periods the employee is receiving long-term disability benefits. *However, for an employee as defined in § 51.1-201 who is receiving long-term disability benefits for a work-related disability pursuant to Article 4 (§ 51.1-1119 et seq.) of Chapter 11, the Commonwealth shall continue to pay the employer's share of the cost of health insurance coverage under such plan for the participating employee and for his family and dependents until such time as the employee is approved for continued health insurance coverage as provided under Chapter 4 (§ 9.1-400 et seq.) of Title 9.1.*

2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.