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HOUSE BILL NO. 1607

Offered January 13, 1999

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 2 of Title 2.1 a section numbered 2.1-20.1:5, relating to health insurance credits for retired sheriffs and deputies.

Patrons—Davies; Senators: Couric and Houck

Referred to Committee on Appropriations

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 2 of Title 2.1 a section numbered 2.1-20.1:5 as follows:

§ 2.1-20.1:5. Health insurance credits for retired sheriffs and sheriff's deputies.

A. A local officer, as defined in § 51.1-124.3, whose service was as a sheriff or deputy, retired under the Virginia Retirement System who rendered at least fifteen years of total creditable service under the System shall receive a health insurance credit to his monthly retirement allowance, which shall be applied to reduce the retired member's health insurance premium cost. The amount of each monthly health insurance credit payable under this section shall be one dollar and fifty cents for each full year of the retired member's creditable service, not to exceed a maximum monthly credit of forty-five dollars; however, each former member whose retirement was for disability shall receive a monthly health insurance credit of forty-five dollars. Eligibility for the credit shall be determined in a manner prescribed by the Virginia Retirement System. Any member who elects to defer his retirement pursuant to subsection C of § 51.1-153 shall be entitled to receive the allowable credit provided by this section on the effective date of his retirement. The cost of such credit shall be borne by the Commonwealth.

B. In addition to the health insurance credit authorized in subsection A, localities which participate in the Virginia Retirement System may elect to provide an additional health insurance credit of one dollar per month for each full year of the retired member's creditable service, not to exceed a maximum monthly credit of thirty dollars. The costs of such additional health insurance credit shall be borne by the locality.

C. 1. Those retired employees who purchase an alternative personal health insurance policy from a carrier or organization of their own choosing shall be eligible to receive a credit in the amount specified in subdivision C 2. Eligibility for the credit and payment of the credit shall be determined in a manner prescribed by the Virginia Retirement System.

2. The credit shall be in (i) the amount provided in subsection A, or subsection A and subsection B if the additional credit authorized by subsection B is provided, or (ii) the amount of premium paid for the personal health insurance policy, whichever is less.

D. The Virginia Retirement System shall (i) actuarially determine the amount necessary to fund all credits provided under this section, (ii) reflect the cost of such credits in the applicable employer contribution rate pursuant to § 51.1-145, and (iii) prescribe such terms and conditions as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The costs associated with the administration of the health insurance program provided for in this section shall be recovered from the health insurance credit trust fund.

INTRODUCED

HB1607