

**House File 690 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 690  
BY JACOBY

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to employment benefits for public safety
- 2 employees and volunteers of cities and counties and making
- 3 appropriations.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **70A.24 Public safety employee and**  
2 **volunteer benefits — fund — appropriation.**

3 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
4 requires:

5 a. "Department" means the department of management.

6 b. "Employment benefit" includes but is not limited to any  
7 form of insurance and any pension or other retirement benefit.

8 c. "Public safety employee" means a person employed as a  
9 police officer, fire fighter, or an emergency medical care  
10 provider as defined in section 147A.1.

11 d. "Public safety volunteer" means a person who volunteers  
12 for a city or county as a reserve peace officer as defined in  
13 section 80D.1A, a volunteer fire fighter as defined in section  
14 85.61, or an emergency medical care provider as defined in  
15 section 147A.1.

16 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a  
17 person who is employed by a city or county as a public safety  
18 employee for at least thirty-two hours per week shall, for such  
19 week, be considered a full-time employee of the city or county  
20 for purposes of any employment benefit available to the employee  
21 from the city or county or from the state.

22 3. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a  
23 person who volunteers for a city or county as a public safety  
24 volunteer for at least thirty-two hours per week shall, for such  
25 week, be granted all employment benefits available from the city  
26 or county or from the state to full-time public safety employees  
27 employed by the city or county.

28 4. The cost of all employment benefits paid to a public  
29 safety employee or public safety volunteer as required by this  
30 section that would not have been required but for this section  
31 shall be paid by the department from moneys available in the  
32 local public safety employment benefit fund created in subsection  
33 6.

34 5. The department shall establish by rule a process and  
35 timeline for cities and counties to calculate, document, and

1 submit to the department the cost of employment benefits for  
2 which the department is responsible under this section. Such  
3 timeline shall require that cities and counties submit such  
4 documentation to the department with sufficient time before  
5 payment is due to allow the department to validate the costs and  
6 resolve any dispute as to the correct calculation.

7 6. A local public safety employment benefit fund is created  
8 in the state treasury under the control of the department  
9 and shall consist of moneys appropriated to the fund by the  
10 general assembly. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2,  
11 interest or earnings on moneys deposited in the local public  
12 safety employment benefit fund shall be credited to the fund.  
13 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this section  
14 that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the  
15 fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for  
16 expenditure for the purposes designated.

17 7. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state  
18 to the department for each fiscal year beginning on or after  
19 July 1, 2025, an amount necessary to fully pay for the cost of  
20 employment benefits as described in subsection 4.

21 8. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
22 to administer this section.

23 Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. The funds generated as a  
24 result of the enactment of this Act are intended to cover  
25 the costs of any state mandate included in this Act and this  
26 specification of state funding shall be deemed to meet all the  
27 state funding-related requirements of section 25B.2, subsection  
28 3, and no additional state funding shall be necessary for the  
29 full implementation of this Act by, and enforcement of this Act  
30 against, all affected political subdivisions.

31 EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill provides that a person who is employed by a city or  
35 county as a public safety employee for at least 32 hours per week

1 shall, for such week, be considered a full-time employee of the  
2 city or county for purposes of any employment benefit available  
3 to the employee from the city or county or from the state. The  
4 bill also provides that a person who volunteers for a city or  
5 county as a public safety volunteer for at least 32 hours per  
6 week shall, for such week, be granted all employment benefits  
7 available from the city or county or from the state to full-time  
8 public safety employees employed by the city or county. These  
9 requirements apply notwithstanding any provision of law to the  
10 contrary.

11 The bill defines "public safety employee" as a person employed  
12 as a police officer, fire fighter, or an emergency medical care  
13 provider. The bill defines "public safety volunteer" as a  
14 person who volunteers for a city or county as a reserve peace  
15 officer, a volunteer fire fighter, or an emergency medical care  
16 provider. The bill defines "employment benefit" as including but  
17 not limited to any form of insurance and any pension or other  
18 retirement benefit.

19 The bill provides that the cost of all employment benefits  
20 paid to a public safety employee or public safety volunteer as  
21 required by the bill that would not have been required but for  
22 the bill shall be paid by the department of management from  
23 moneys available in the local public safety employment benefit  
24 fund created by the bill.

25 The bill requires the department of management to establish  
26 by rule a process and timeline for cities and counties to  
27 calculate, document, and submit to the department the cost of  
28 employment benefits for which the department is responsible under  
29 the bill. Such timeline shall require cities and counties to  
30 submit such documentation to the department with sufficient time  
31 before payment is due to allow the department to validate the  
32 costs and resolve any dispute as to the correct calculation.

33 The bill appropriates from the general fund to the department  
34 of management for each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1,  
35 2025, an amount necessary to fully pay for the cost of employment

1 benefits as described in the bill.

2     The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
3 section 25B.3. The bill provides that funds generated in the  
4 bill are intended to cover the costs of any state mandate  
5 included in the bill. The inclusion of this specification  
6 of state funding is intended to reinstate the requirement of  
7 political subdivisions to comply with any state mandates included  
8 in the bill.

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