

**CHAPTER 71****( HB 181 )**

AN ACT relating to reemployment of retired officers.

***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

➔Section 1. KRS 70.291 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 70.291 to 70.293, "police officer" shall have the same meaning as "*police officer*" in KRS 15.420 and as "*officer*" in KRS 16.010.

➔Section 2. KRS 70.292 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A county sheriff's office in the Commonwealth of Kentucky may employ police officers who have retired under the ***State Police Retirement System***, Kentucky Employees Retirement System, or the County Employees Retirement System as provided by KRS 70.291 to 70.293.
- (2) An individual employed under KRS 70.291 to 70.293 shall have:
  - (a) ***1.*** Participated in the Law Enforcement Foundation Program fund under KRS 15.410 to 15.515; ***or***  
***2.*** ***Retired as a commissioned officer pursuant to KRS Chapter 16;***
  - (b) Retired with at least twenty (20) years of service credit;
  - (c) Been separated from service for the period required by KRS 61.637 so that the member's retirement is not voided;
  - (d) Retired with no administrative charges pending; and
  - (e) Retired with no pre-existing agreement between the individual and the sheriff's office prior to the individual's retirement for the individual to return to work for the sheriff's office.

➔Section 3. KRS 70.293 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Individuals employed under KRS 70.291 to 70.293 shall:
  - (a) Serve for a term not to exceed one (1) year. The one (1) year employment term may be renewed annually at the discretion of the employing sheriff's office;
  - (b) Receive compensation according to the standard procedures applicable to the employing sheriff's office; and
  - (c) Be employed based upon need as determined by the employing sheriff's office.
- (2) Notwithstanding any provisions of KRS ***16.505 to 16.652***, 18A.225 to 18A.2287, 61.510 to 61.705, or 78.510 to 78.852 to the contrary:
  - (a) Individuals employed under KRS 70.291 to 70.293 shall continue to receive all retirement and health insurance benefits to which they were entitled upon retiring in the applicable system administered by Kentucky Retirement Systems;
  - (b) Individuals employed under KRS 70.291 to 70.293 shall not be eligible to receive health insurance coverage through the sheriff's office or the fiscal court of the sheriff's county;
  - (c) The sheriff's office or fiscal court of the sheriff's office shall not pay any employer contributions or retiree health expense reimbursements to the Kentucky Retirement Systems required by KRS 61.637(17) for individuals employed under KRS 70.291 to 70.293; and
  - (d) The sheriff's office or fiscal court of the sheriff's office shall not pay any insurance contributions to the state health insurance plan, as provided by KRS 18A.225 to 18A.2287, for individuals employed under KRS 70.291 to 70.293.
- (3) Individuals employed under KRS 70.291 to 70.293 shall be subject to any merit system, civil service, or other legislative due process provisions applicable to the sheriff's office. A decision not to renew a one (1) year appointment term under this section shall not be considered a disciplinary action or deprivation subject to due process.

