

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



**BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**DATE OF MEETING: November 28, 2023**

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**To:** Village President and Board of Trustees

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** Tyler Hall, Assistant Village Manager

**Topic:** Update to Village Ordinance M-2128 that Establishes an Administrative Procedure for Assessing and Determining Claims under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA)

## **PURPOSE**

The Illinois General Assembly passed legislation that created updates to the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (820 ILCS 320). This updated legislation impacts the Village's existing ordinance, M-2128, which establishes an administrative procedure for assessing and determining claims under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act. The Village Board approved the current Village ordinance at the February 11, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

## **Background on PSEBA**

The Public Safety Employee Benefit Act (PSEBA) was enacted in 1997 to provide lifetime health insurance coverage for first responders, along with their spouses and children, when the first responders are killed or "catastrophically injured" while responding to an emergency. Qualifying employees that sustain a "catastrophic injury" are entitled to lifetime employer-funded health insurance premiums for themselves, their spouse and any children until majority age is reached or the end of the year in which the child turns twenty-six if the child is either a dependent, or a part-time or full-time student. Upon the death of the public safety employee receiving the health insurance premium coverage, the surviving spouse continues to receive the health insurance benefit until remarriage.

## **PROCESS**

The updated language that was passed by the Illinois General Assembly (P.A. 103-0340) amends the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act. In a provision requiring a public safety employer to pay the entire premium of its health insurance plan for a public safety employee, the employee's spouse, and the employee's dependent children after the employee suffers a fatal or catastrophic injury in the line of duty, it states that the employer is required to offer any individual who qualifies for such premium payments the choice of any health insurance plan available to currently employed full-time public safety employees. Changes in coverage may only be elected during open enrollment or following a qualifying event. This new provision becomes effective January 1, 2024. Currently, an eligible public safety employee, their spouse,

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and their dependent children, would only be allowed to receive the Village's basic group health insurance plan.

## **OUTCOME**

Updating the Village Ordinance regarding the administrative procedure of assessing and determining claims under PSEBA, would bring the Village into compliance with State law.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- **Funding Source:** No Financial Impact
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

## **LEGAL REVIEW**

Completed

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Pass an ordinance establishing an administrative procedure for assessing and determining claims under the Public Safety Benefits Act (PSEBA) to become compliant with State law.

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Ordinance