

Recently, the Ohio FOP and Thin Blue Line Benefits Association* (TBL) entered into a marketing agreement, which has raised some questions about who is eligible to access TBL's stipend eligible plans. Below is information that should be useful to retired, or soon to be retired law enforcement personnel who have not yet attained Medicare eligibility and who plan to access insurance through Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OPF) or Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS).

Question: Do retired Ohio law enforcement personnel who move to another state have to join or maintain an Ohio FOP membership to be eligible for TBL's stipend eligible plans?

Answer: There are three possibilities here.

1. If an Ohio FOP member is already a TBL policy holder and moves to a state that has a similar marketing agreement, the Ohio FOP membership is sufficient to continue coverage with TBL and that member will not be required to become an FOP member in that state.
2. If an Ohio FOP member or non-member moves to a state that has a marketing agreement prior to obtaining coverage with TBL, then that person will be required to become an FOP member in that state to access TBL plans.
3. If an Ohio FOP member or non-member moves to a state without a marketing agreement with TBL, that person will not be required to join or maintain their Ohio FOP membership to access TBL plans.

Question: Is the FOP membership requirement for retired Ohio law enforcement personnel just for initial signup with TBL?

Answer: When FOP membership is a requirement for retired Ohio law enforcement personnel to access TBL plans, continuous membership will be required to maintain or renew TBL coverage. Semi-annual audits by the Ohio FOP are conducted after per-capita payments are made by local lodges to ensure coverage eligibility.

Question: For retired Ohio law enforcement personnel who were not FOP, who can they contact to obtain membership?

Answer: A prospective member can call Ohio FOP Membership Director Rob Hawley at 614-224-5700 ext. 1150 or send an email to rhawley@fopohio.org.

Question: What if retired Ohio law enforcement personnel move to another part of Ohio that is covered by a different local lodge?

Answer: Retired Ohio law enforcement personnel who are FOP members and move to another part of Ohio can maintain their current membership. However, if the member wishes to transfer their membership to a different lodge, the member can contact their local lodge secretary.

Question: Do surviving spouses of retired or deceased Ohio law enforcement personnel have to become FOP members?

Answer: No. Surviving spouses are ineligible for FOP membership unless they, too, were law enforcement. For a surviving spouse to maintain or obtain coverage, they will provide a death certificate or other acceptable documentation to TBL, who will assist with the enrollment process.

Question: What if someone needs to contact TBL directly about their products?

Answer: TBL can be reached by calling 866-921-2583, or by email to info@thinbluelinebenefits.com.

*Thin Blue Line Benefits Association is a benefits association exclusively for first responders throughout The United States. Membership with Thin Blue Line Benefits Association is required to obtain benefits. There is no fee for membership. Enroll at www.thinbluelinebenefits.com/fopohio