

VILLAGE OF CHESTNUT RIDGE LOCAL LAW NO. “E” (v.1) of 2025

A LOCAL LAW REGARDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR VILLAGE OFFICERS AND REQUIRING PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION

BE IT ENACTED by the Village Board of the Village of Chestnut Ridge, Rockland County, New York (“Village Board”) as follows:

Section 1. Part I, titled “Administrative Legislation,” Chapter 79 “Public Officers, Elected,” of the Village of Chestnut Ridge Village Code is hereby repealed and replaced to read as follows:

CHAPTER 79: PUBLIC OFFICERS, ELECTED

§79-1. Intent.

The Village Board of the Village of Chestnut Ridge hereby finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the residents of the Village of Chestnut Ridge to find and encourage qualified people to run for and serve the Village in the elected offices of Village Mayor and/or Trustees (including any Trustee serving as Deputy Mayor). The Village Board finds that the Village Mayor and Trustees provide numerous beneficial services to the Village, many of which are unseen, and having duly qualified persons serving in these roles is invaluable. The Village Board also finds that having public officers that capably serve the Village for an extended period of time provides the Village with stability, upward mobility, and reliability for the residents of the Village. The Village Board further finds the most qualified people would be enticed and encouraged to serve as public officers for an extended period of time if lifetime health insurance benefits were made available to them.

§79-2. Requirements.

Persons seeking to hold or holding the position of Village Mayor and/or Trustee (including any Trustee serving as Deputy Mayor) shall reside in the Village of Chestnut Ridge, New York, and otherwise comply with all State and Local Laws, rules and regulations.

§79-3. Authority.

This article is adopted pursuant to Section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, including, but not limited to, § 10(1)(ii)(a)(1) as well as the New York State General Municipal Law, and the General Municipal Law § 92-a.

§79-4. Health Insurance.

- A. Any person serving the Village of Chestnut Ridge as Village Mayor or Trustee (including any Trustee serving as Deputy Mayor), whether appointed or elected, shall be afforded the right to such health insurance coverage as is provided to village employees and officers, for themselves and their families.

1. Regardless of whether the Village Mayor elects individual or family health insurance coverage, the Village shall be responsible for all premiums due and owing for such health insurance coverage.
 2. If a Trustee elects individual health insurance coverage, the Village shall be responsible for 65% of the total premiums for such health insurance coverage, with the respective Trustee responsible for the remaining 35% of the total premiums. The Trustee's contribution shall be capped at a maximum annual amount of thirty-thousand dollars, with any premiums in excess to be paid by the Village.
 3. If a Trustee elects family health insurance coverage, the Village shall be responsible for 65% of the individual portion of the premiums and 50% of the family portion of the premiums, with the respective Trustee responsible for the remaining amount. The Trustee's contribution shall be capped at a maximum annual amount of thirty-thousand dollars, with any premiums in excess to be paid by the Village.
- B. Any person who has served the Village of Chestnut Ridge as Village Mayor, whether by appointment or election, for the equivalent of an aggregate of at least ten (10) years (3,650 days) or more shall have immediately vested rights and be afforded the right, during their lifetime, to such health insurance coverage as is provided to village employees and officers, for themselves and their families, with all premiums due and owing for such health insurance coverage to be paid by the Village.
- C. Any person who has served the Village of Chestnut Ridge for the equivalent of an aggregate of at least seven (7) years (2,555 days) or more as Village Mayor or Trustee (including any Trustee serving as Deputy Mayor), or in any combination thereof, whether by appointment or election, shall have immediately vested rights and be afforded the right, during their lifetime, to such health insurance coverage as is provided to village employees and officers, for themselves and their families.
1. If the Village Mayor or Trustee elects individual health insurance coverage, the Village shall be responsible for 65% of the total premiums for such health insurance coverage, with the respective Village Mayor and/or Trustee responsible for the remaining 35% of the total premiums. The Village Mayor's and/or Trustee's contribution shall be capped at a maximum annual amount of thirty-thousand dollars, with any premiums in excess to be paid by the Village.
 2. If the Village Mayor or Trustee elect family health insurance coverage, the Village shall be responsible for 65% of the individual portion of the premiums and 50% of the family portion of the premiums, with the Trustee responsible for the remaining amount. The Trustee's contribution shall be capped at a maximum annual amount of thirty-thousand dollars, with any premiums in excess to be paid by the Village.
- D. Any time served as Village Mayor and/or Trustee (including any Trustee serving as Deputy Mayor), whether by appointment or election, in any combination thereof, prior to the adoption of this law shall be credited toward the required number of years.
- E. Any person opting for health benefits pursuant to this Chapter will be provided the New York State Health Insurance Program Empire Plan, as it is provided to Village Employees, or, if that plan is someday no longer available, a substantial equivalent of that plan with commensurate benefits.
- F. The benefits outlined in this Chapter shall be provided in accordance with the rules and requirements of the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) or any successor plan that may be applicable.

- G. Any amount paid by the Village pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to be salary, wages or compensation within the meaning of any law relating to any retirement or pension system and shall not be considered or included for the purposes of computing or determining employee or village contributions or the rights, allowances, and benefits to which a village employee or employee's heirs or beneficiaries shall become entitled under any retirement or pension system; and shall not be construed as a change of grade or classification or as a promotion to a higher grade or position.

Section 2. State Environmental Quality Review Act.

This Local Law is classified as a Type II action under the Regulations governing the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Section 3. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder hereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part hereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.