

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 231

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

LAW ENFORCE/OFFICERS: Extends health insurance coverage for the families of law enforcement officers and firemen killed in the line of duty

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1665(D) and 1665.2(H), relative to financial security for survivors of law
3 enforcement officers and firemen killed in the line of duty; to provide relative to
4 health insurance coverage for the surviving spouse and child of a law enforcement
5 officer or fireman killed in the line of duty for a certain time period; to provide for
6 retroactivity; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 40:1665(D) and 1665.2(H) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1665. Financial security for surviving spouses and children of firemen in certain
10 cases

11 * * *

12 D.(1) The employer of a fireman who suffers death as a result of any injury
13 arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official duties as a fireman,
14 or arising out of any activity while on or off duty in his capacity as a fireman in the
15 protection of life or property shall provide and pay for health insurance coverage for
16 the fireman's surviving spouse for the remainder of the surviving spouse's life
17 following the death of the fireman.

18 (2)(a) The employer of a fireman who suffers death as a result of any injury
19 arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official duties as a fireman,
20 or arising out of any activity while on or off duty in his capacity as a fireman in the

1 §1665.2. Financial security for surviving spouses and children of law enforcement
2 officers in certain cases

3 * * *

4 H.(1) The employer of a law enforcement officer who suffers death as a
5 result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official
6 duties as a law enforcement officer, or arising out of any activity while on or off duty
7 in his capacity as a law enforcement officer in the protection of life or property shall
8 provide and pay for health insurance coverage for the law enforcement officer's
9 surviving spouse for the remainder of the surviving spouse's life following the death
10 of the law enforcement officer.

11 (2)(a) The employer of a law enforcement officer who suffers death as a
12 result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official
13 duties as a law enforcement officer, or arising out of any activity while on or off duty
14 in his capacity as a law enforcement officer in the protection of life or property shall
15 provide and pay for health insurance coverage for the law enforcement officer's
16 child, stepchild, or adopted child who is either:

- 17 (i) Under the age of eighteen.
- 18 (ii) Under the age of twenty-three and enrolled in and regularly attending a
19 secondary school or is a full-time student at an accredited college or university.
- 20 (iii) Physically or mentally disabled.

21 (b) The employer shall provide and pay for the health insurance provided
22 pursuant to this Paragraph following the death of the law enforcement officer until
23 the child no longer meets the qualifications provided in this Paragraph.

24 (3) If health insurance coverage is offered by the employer to active
25 members, the health insurance provided to a surviving spouse or child pursuant to
26 this Subsection shall be equal in coverage to that offered to active members.

27 (4)(a) The surviving spouse shall have the option to decline the health
28 insurance coverage provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

- (2) Under the age of 23 and enrolled in and regularly attending a secondary school or is a full-time student at an accredited college or university.
- (3) Physically or mentally disabled.

Proposed law requires health insurance coverage for children until a child no longer meets the specified qualifications.

The provisions of proposed law are only applicable in a parish with a population of not less than 240,000 persons and no more than 250,000 persons based on the latest federal decennial census.

Proposed law applies retroactively to Jan. 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 40:1665(D) and 1665.2(H))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill:

1. Restore present law regarding the two-year limitation for health insurance benefits for spouses and children of law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty.
2. Change the applicability of the bill from statewide application to a parish with a population of not less than 240,000 and no more than 255,000 persons.
3. Limit the retroactive applicability to Jan. 1, 2017.