

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 604

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Provides for health insurance for the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty

1 AN ACT

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

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 40:1665.2(G) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1665.2. Financial security for surviving spouses and children of law enforcement  
10 officers in certain cases

11 \* \* \*

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

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

1 capacity as a law enforcement officer in the protection of life or property shall  
2 provide and pay for health insurance coverage for the law enforcement officer's  
3 child, stepchild, or adopted child who is either:

4 (i) Under the age of eighteen.

5 (ii) Under the age of twenty-three and enrolled in and regularly attending a  
6 secondary school or is a full-time student at an accredited college or university.

7 (iii) Physically or mentally disabled.

8 (b) The employer shall provide and pay for the health insurance provided  
9 pursuant to this Paragraph for two years following the death of the law enforcement  
10 officer or until the child no longer meets the qualifications provided in this  
11 Paragraph, whichever comes first.

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

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 604 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Emerson

**Abstract:** Requires employer to provide and pay for health insurance for the surviving spouse and children of a law enforcement officer who is killed in the line of duty.

Present law provides the surviving spouse, children, or other beneficiary of a law enforcement officer killed in the course of the performance of his official duties or arising out of any activity on or off duty in his capacity as a law enforcement officer, in the protection of life or property \$250,000 plus \$25,000 to each of the officer's dependent children.

Proposed law requires the employer of an officer who dies under the same circumstances to provide and pay for health insurance coverage for the law enforcement officer's surviving spouse for two years following the death of the law enforcement officer. Requires the employer to provide and pay for health insurance coverage for the law enforcement officer's surviving child for as long as the child remains qualified for the benefit or two years, whichever comes first. Provides that a child is qualified for the benefit if he is under the age of 18, under the age of 23 and enrolled in and regularly attending a secondary school or a full-time student at an accredited college or university, or physically or mentally disabled.

Provides that if health insurance coverage is offered by the employer to active members, the health insurance provided to a surviving spouse or child shall be equal in coverage to that offered to active members.

(Adds R.S. 40:1665.2(G))