

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 604****2018 Regular Session****Emerson**

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

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Grants the surviving spouse, parent, or legal guardian the option to decline the health insurance coverage for the child, stepchild, or adopted child of the deceased law enforcement officer.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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.

Proposed law 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.

Proposed law allows the surviving spouse, parent, or legal guardian to have the option to decline the health insurance coverage for the child, stepchild, or adopted child of the deceased law enforcement officer.

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