

SENATE BILL NO. 164

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 42:851(V), relative to the Office of Group Benefits; to provide relative to  
3 eligibility; to provide relative to health coverage programs for certain employees; to  
4 provide relative to employer premium contributions; to provide for limitations; and  
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 42:851(V) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §851. Authority for employee benefit programs; payroll deduction for payment of  
9 premiums

10 \* \* \*

11 **V.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person**  
12 **who previously participated in health coverage programs sponsored by the**  
13 **Office of Group Benefits as a dependent spouse of a deceased retiree**  
14 **immediately prior to enrolling in Office of Group Benefits health coverage as**  
15 **an active employee, shall, upon termination from state service, be eligible to**  
16 **obtain Office of Group Benefits health coverage as a surviving spouse provided**  
17 **all of the following conditions are met:**

18 **(a) The person is enrolled in Office of Group Benefits health coverage as**  
19 **an active employee as of July 1, 2024.**

20 **(b) The person remains enrolled in Office of Group Benefits health**  
21 **coverage continuously until immediately prior to the date of termination.**

22 **(c) The person would have had surviving spouse coverage at the time of**  
23 **death of the retiree spouse but for his or her eligibility for coverage in a group**  
24 **health plan other than Medicare.**

25 **(d) The person pays the requisite premiums.**

26 **(e) The person complies with any other applicable Office of Group**  
27 **Benefits rules.**

1                   (2) A surviving spouse pursuant to this Subsection shall be entitled to  
2                   receive, in state contribution to premiums, the percentage of the total premium  
3                   as provided for in applicable Office of Group Benefits rules.

4                   (3) Employer premium contributions for a person eligible to obtain  
5                   Office of Group Benefits coverage as a surviving spouse pursuant to this  
6                   Subsection shall be the responsibility of the school board, state agency, or  
7                   political subdivision from which the deceased retiree spouse originally retired.

8                   (4) The dependent children of a person eligible to obtain Office of Group  
9                   Benefits coverage as a surviving spouse pursuant to this Subsection may  
10                  continue coverage in accordance with applicable rules promulgated by the  
11                  Office of Group Benefits.

12                  Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
13                  signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
14                  by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
15                  vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
16                  effective on the day following such approval.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_