HLS 25RS-53 ENGROSSED

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 231

1

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

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

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1	protection of life or property shall provide and pay for health insurance coverage for
2	the fireman's child, stepchild, or adopted child who is either:
3	(i) Under the age of eighteen.
4	(ii) Under the age of twenty-three and enrolled in and regularly attending a
5	secondary school or is a full-time student at an accredited college or university.
6	(iii) Physically or mentally disabled.
7	(b) The employer shall provide and pay for the health insurance provided
8	pursuant to this Paragraph following the death of the fireman until the child no
9	longer meets the qualifications provided in this Paragraph.
10	(3) If health insurance coverage is offered by the employer to active
11	members, the health insurance provided to a surviving spouse or child pursuant to
12	this Subsection shall be equal in coverage to that offered to active members.
13	(4)(a) The surviving spouse shall have the option to decline the health
14	insurance coverage provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.
15	(b) The surviving parent or legal guardian of each child, stepchild, or
16	adopted child of the deceased fireman shall have the option to decline the health
17	insurance coverage provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection for the child.
18	(5) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of
19	this Subsection shall only apply to a parish with a population of not less than two
20	hundred forty thousand persons and no more than two hundred fifty-five thousand
21	persons based on the latest federal decennial census.
22	(6) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of
23	this Subsection shall be applied retroactively to January 1, 2017, for the payment of
24	health insurance benefits for the surviving spouses and children of all firemen who
25	suffered death as a result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the
26	performance of their official duties as a fireman, or arising out of any activity while
27	on or off duty in their capacity as a fireman in the protection of life or property.
28	* * *

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.

1	(b) The surviving parent or legal guardian of each child, stepchild, or
2	adopted child of the deceased law enforcement officer shall have the option to
3	decline the health insurance coverage provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection
4	for the child.
5	(5) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of
6	this Subsection shall only apply to a parish with a population of not less than two
7	hundred forty thousand persons and no more than two hundred fifty-five thousand
8	persons based on the latest federal decennial census.
9	(6) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of
10	this Subsection shall be applied retroactively to January 1, 2017, for the payment of
11	health insurance benefits for the surviving spouses and children of all law
12	enforcement officers who suffered death as a result of any injury arising out of and
13	in the course of the performance of their official duties as a law enforcement officer,
14	or arising out of any activity while on or off duty in their capacity as a law
15	enforcement officer in the protection of life or property.

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)]

HB 231 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Chassion

Abstract: Extends health insurance coverage for the families of law enforcement officers and firemen killed in the line of duty.

<u>Present law</u> requires the employer of a law enforcement officer who is 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, 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.

Proposed law retains present law.

<u>Proposed law</u> extends health insurance coverage for the remainder of the life of a law enforcement officer's surviving spouse or the surviving spouse of a fireman. Extends health insurance coverage of the law enforcement officer's child, stepchild, or adopted child who is any of the following:

(1) Under the age of 18.

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(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.

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

The provisions of <u>proposed law</u> 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 <u>House Committee on Appropriations</u> to the original bill:

- 1. Restore <u>present law</u> 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 <u>from</u> statewide application <u>to</u> 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.