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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Lann.

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DIGEST

SB 164 Original 2024 Regular Session Abraham

Proposed law provides that any person who previously participated in health coverage programs sponsored by the Office of Group Benefits as a dependent spouse of a deceased retiree immediately prior to enrolling in Office of Group Benefits health coverage as an active employee, shall, upon termination from state service, be eligible to obtain Office of Group Benefits health coverage as a surviving spouse provided all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The person is enrolled in Office of Group Benefits health coverage as an active employee as of July 1, 2024.
- (2) The person remains enrolled in Office of Group Benefits health coverage continuously until immediately prior to the date of termination.
- (3) The person would have had surviving spouse coverage at the time of death of the retiree spouse but for his or her eligibility for coverage in a group health plan other than Medicare.
- (4) The person pays the requisite premiums.
- (5) The person complies with any other applicable Office of Group Benefits rules.

Proposed law provides that any person eligible to obtain Office of Group Benefits coverage as a surviving spouse pursuant to proposed law is entitled to receive, in state contribution to premiums, the same percentage of the total premium as a surviving dependent of the deceased retiree spouse.

Proposed law provides that employer premium contributions for a person eligible to obtain Office of Group Benefits coverage as a surviving spouse pursuant to proposed law shall be the responsibility of the school board, state agency, or political subdivision from which the deceased retiree spouse originally retired.

Proposed law provides that dependent children of a person eligible to obtain Office of Group Benefits coverage as a surviving spouse pursuant to proposed law may continue coverage in accordance with applicable rules promulgated by the Office of Group Benefits.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 42:851(V))