

Group-funded Pools Refund Fund, Premium Taxes, COBRA Coverage for Families of Fallen Firefighters; HB 2093

HB 2093 establishes the Group-funded Pools Refund Fund and eliminates assessments paid by municipal group-funded liability pools and group-funded workers' compensation pools, amends provisions pertaining to premium taxes paid by municipal group-funded liability pools and group-funded workers' compensation pools, and amends law requiring certain municipalities to pay for the premiums for the continuation of insurance coverage under COBRA for the surviving spouse and eligible dependent children of a firefighter who dies in the line of duty.

Group-funded Pools Refund Fund

The bill establishes the Group-funded Pools Refund Fund and amends and repeals law to eliminate assessments paid by municipal group-funded liability pools and group-funded workers' compensation pools in order to refund existing balances in two associated fee funds and wind down such funds.

Moneys in the Group-funded Pools Refund Fund may be used only for the purpose of refunding entities that have paid into the Group-funded Pools Fee Fund (pursuant to KSA 12-2623) and the Group-funded Workers' Compensation Fee Fund (pursuant to KSA 44-587).

The bill provides for a July 1, 2023, transfer from the two existing fee funds into the Group-funded Pools Refund Fund. On July 1, 2024, this fund will be abolished.

The bill also makes a technical update to remove reference to the Group-funded Workers' Compensation Pools Fee Fund, which is eliminated by this bill.

Premium Taxes Paid by Group-funded Pools

The bill amends provisions pertaining to premium taxes paid by municipal group-funded liability pools and group-funded workers' compensation pools to change the basis upon which the premium taxes for these pools is calculated.

The bill changes, from fiscal year to calendar year, the basis upon which the 1.0 percent annual premium tax is paid. (Under continuing law, the premium tax is based on the annual gross premium collected by the pool for the preceding year. Payment must be made no later than 90 days after the conclusion of each year.)

COBRA Coverage for Families of Fallen Firefighters

The bill amends law requiring certain municipalities to pay for the premiums for the continuation of insurance coverage under COBRA for the surviving spouse and eligible dependent children of a firefighter who dies in the line of duty. The bill adds "fire district" to "city, county, or township" in the definition of "municipality" to allow such districts to be subject to this continuation of coverage requirement. The law requires municipalities opting to provide for the payment of health insurance premiums for its firefighters to pay the premiums for continuation of coverage for 18 months.