

SENATE BILL No. 250

By Senators Faust-Goudeau, Kelsey and A. Schmidt

12-14

1 AN ACT pertaining to the continuation of health insurance for firefighters.

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3 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

4 ~~New~~ Section 1. (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3),
5 whenever a municipality provides for the payment of premiums for any
6 health benefit plan for its firefighters, it shall ~~continue to pay such~~
7 ~~premiums~~ **pay premiums for the continuation of coverage under COBRA**
8 for the surviving spouse and dependent children of a firefighter who dies
9 in the line of duty. **Premiums for continuation of coverage under**
10 **COBRA shall be paid for 18 months.**

11 (2) A municipality may not be required to pay the premiums
12 described in paragraph (1) for a surviving spouse:

13 (A) On or after the ~~fifth calendar year commencing~~ **end of the 18th**
14 **calendar month** after the date of death of the deceased firefighter;

15 (B) upon the remarriage of the deceased firefighter's surviving
16 spouse; or

17 (C) upon the deceased firefighter's surviving spouse reaching the age
18 of 65.

19 (3) An individual is not a dependent child of a deceased firefighter for
20 the purposes of paragraph (1) after such individual reaches the age of 18
21 years unless such individual is a:

22 (A) Full-time student in an accredited high school; or

23 (B) full-time student in a postsecondary educational institution,
24 except that this subparagraph shall not apply to such an individual after the
25 close of the calendar year in which the individual reaches the age of 24 as
26 long as such individual continues to maintain such status as a full-time
27 student.

28 (b) For the purposes of this section:

29 (1) "Firefighter" means an actual member of an organized fire
30 department, of a municipality, whether regular or volunteer.

31 (2) "Health benefit plan" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in
32 K.S.A. 40-4602, and amendments thereto.

33 (3) "Municipality" means city, county or township.

34 (4) "Postsecondary educational institution" shall have the meaning
35 ascribed to it in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

36 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its

1 publication in the statute book.
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