

As Amended by Senate Committee

Session of 2023

HOUSE BILL No. 2284

By Committee on Insurance

2-2

1 AN ACT concerning insurance; pertaining to the continuation of
2 firefighter health insurance; adding fire districts to the definition of
3 "municipality" for purposes of the payment of COBRA premiums
4 under certain circumstances; amending K.S.A. 40-1709 and repealing
5 the existing section.

6
7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 Section 1. K.S.A. 40-1709 is hereby amended to read as follows: 40-
9 1709. (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), whenever a municipality
10 provides for the payment of premiums for any health benefit plan for its
11 firefighters, it shall pay premiums for the continuation of coverage under
12 COBRA for the surviving spouse and eligible dependent children under
13 the age of 26 years of a firefighter who dies in the line of duty. Premiums
14 for continuation of coverage under COBRA shall be paid for 18 months.

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

17 (A) On or after the end of the 18th calendar month after the date of
18 death of the deceased firefighter;

19 (B) upon the remarriage of the deceased firefighter's surviving
20 spouse; or

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

23 (b) For the purposes of this section:

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

26 (2) "Health benefit plan" ~~shall have the meaning ascribed to it~~ *means*
27 *the same as defined* in K.S.A. 40-4602, and amendments thereto.

28 (3) "Municipality" means a city, county, *fire district* or township.

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

31 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 40-1709 is hereby repealed.

32 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
33 publication in the ~~statute book~~ ***Kansas register***.