

SESSION OF 2023

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2284**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Financial  
Institutions and Insurance

**Brief\***

HB 2284, as amended, would amend 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 would add “fire district” to the definition of “municipality” to allow such districts to be subject to this continuation of coverage requirement.

Under current law, the term “municipality” means a city, county, or township. 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.

The bill would also make technical corrections, including the removal of a term no longer included in the statute.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Insurance at the request of the Kansas State Firefighters Association (KSFFA).

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

### ***House Committee on Insurance***

In the House Committee hearing, a KSFFA representative provided **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would correct an oversight and ensure all firefighters in Kansas are eligible to draw on COBRA coverage, which would make health insurance available to the spouse and dependent children in the same manner as provided prior to the line of duty death of a firefighter.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee recommended the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

### ***Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance***

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a KSFFA representative who stated the bill would correct a COBRA statute to ensure that all eligible firefighters in the state are able to draw on their COBRA coverage as provided for in federal law.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to change its effective date to upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the League of Kansas Municipalities indicates the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Insurance; line of duty death; firefighters; continuation of coverage; COBRA premiums; fire districts