

Firefighters—Continuation of COBRA Coverage; SB 250

SB 250 enacts new law to require municipalities to pay premiums for continuation of coverage under the federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) for the surviving spouse and dependent children of a firefighter who dies in the line of duty. The payment of premiums for COBRA continuation coverage will be paid for 18 months and will be required only if the deceased firefighter was enrolled in a health benefit plan for which the municipality was paying premiums.

A municipality will not be required to pay the premiums for a surviving spouse:

- On or after the end of the 18th calendar month after the date of the deceased firefighter's death;
- Upon the remarriage of the deceased firefighter's surviving spouse; or
- Upon the deceased firefighter's surviving spouse reaching the age of 65.

Dependent children of a deceased firefighter will no longer be considered dependent upon reaching the age of 18, for the purposes of coverage under the bill, unless the child is a full-time student in an accredited high school or is a full-time student in a postsecondary educational institution, until the end of the year in which the individual reaches the age of 24.

The bill also defines the terms "firefighter," "health benefit plan," "municipality," and "postsecondary educational institution."