

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 31

BY SENATOR WHEAT

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. Increases survivor benefits for dependent children of firemen and law enforcement officers. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1665(C)(1) and 1665.2(C)(1), relative to survivor benefits;
3 to provide for survivor benefits for dependent children of firemen and law
4 enforcement officers; to provide for terms and conditions; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1665(C)(1) and 1665.2(C)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted
8 to read as follows:

9 §1665. Financial security for surviving spouses and children of firemen in certain
10 cases

11 * * *

12 C.(1) In any case in which a fireman suffers death as a result of an injury
13 arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official duties as a fireman,
14 or arising out of any activity while on or off duty, in his capacity as a fireman, in the
15 protection of life and property, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall
16 be paid to the surviving spouse of the fireman or, if not survived by a spouse, the
17 sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the surviving child or

1 children or, if not survived by a spouse nor a child or children, then the sum of two
2 hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the named beneficiary listed on the
3 fireman's designation form or, if there is no beneficiary designation form at the time
4 of the fireman's death, and no surviving spouse nor a child or children, then the sum
5 of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the fireman's estate. Each
6 fireman shall complete a beneficiary designation form. In addition, if the fireman is
7 survived by a dependent child or children, the sum of ~~twenty-five~~ **fifty** thousand
8 dollars shall be paid for each of the dependent children, such sums to be paid to the
9 duly appointed and qualified tutor or the legal representative of the child or children.
10 Payment shall be made by the state risk manager out of the Self-Insurance Fund
11 created in R.S. 39:1533(A).

12 * * *

13 §1665.2. Financial security for surviving spouses and children of law enforcement
14 officers in certain cases

15 * * *

16 C.(1) In any case in which a law enforcement officer suffers death as a result
17 of any injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official duties
18 as such officer, or arising out of any activity, while on or off duty, in his capacity as
19 a law enforcement officer, in the protection of life or property, the sum of two
20 hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the surviving spouse of each officer
21 or, if not survived by a spouse, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall
22 be paid to the surviving child or children or, if not survived by a spouse nor a child
23 or children, then the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid to the
24 named beneficiary listed on the officer's beneficiary designation form or, if there is
25 no designation form at the time of the officer's death, and no surviving spouse nor
26 a child or children, then the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be paid
27 to the officer's estate. Each officer shall complete a beneficiary designation form. In
28 addition, if the officer is survived by a dependent child or children, the sum of
29 ~~twenty-five~~ **fifty** thousand dollars shall be paid for each of the dependent children,

4 * * *

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Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law increases the amount to be paid for each dependent child from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 40:1665(C)(1) and 1665.2(C)(1))