

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 430

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

LAW ENFORCE/OFFICERS: Enacts the MJ 911 Act to extend health insurance coverage for families of law enforcement officers and firemen employed in Lafayette Parish who are killed in the line of duty

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1665.5 and 1665.6, relative to health insurance coverage for the families
3 of law enforcement officers and firemen killed in the line of duty; to provide for
4 health insurance coverage for the families of law enforcement officers and firemen
5 employed in Lafayette Parish who are killed in the line of duty; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
8 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
9 Louisiana.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 40:1665.5 and 1665.6 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §1665.5. Lafayette Parish; health insurance coverage for surviving spouses and
13 children of firemen in certain cases

14 A. The employer of a fireman employed in Lafayette Parish who suffers
15 death as a result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of
16 his official duties as a fireman, or arising out of any activity while on or off duty in
17 his capacity as a fireman in the protection of life or property, shall provide and pay
18 for health insurance coverage for the fireman's surviving spouse for the remainder
19 of the surviving spouse's life following the death of the fireman.

1 B.(1) The employer of a fireman employed in Lafayette Parish who suffers
2 death as a result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of
3 his official duties as a fireman, or arising out of any activity while on or off duty in
4 his capacity as a fireman in the protection of life or property, shall provide and pay
5 for health insurance coverage for the fireman's child, stepchild, or adopted child who
6 is any of the following:

7 (a) Under the age of eighteen.

8 (b) Under the age of twenty-three and enrolled in and regularly attending a
9 secondary school or is a full-time student at an accredited college or university.

10 (c) Physically or mentally disabled.

11 (2) The employer shall provide and pay for the health insurance required by
12 this Subsection following the death of the fireman until the child no longer meets the
13 qualifications provided pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

14 C. If health insurance coverage is offered by the employer to active
15 members, the health insurance provided to a surviving spouse or child pursuant to
16 this Section shall be equal in coverage to that offered to active members.

17 D.(1) The surviving spouse may decline the health insurance coverage
18 required by Subsection A of this Section.

19 (2) The surviving parent or legal guardian of each child, stepchild, or
20 adopted child of the deceased fireman may decline the health insurance coverage
21 required by Subsection B of this Section for the child.

22 E. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the provisions of
23 this Section shall be applied retroactively to January 1, 2017, for the payment of
24 health insurance benefits for the surviving spouse and the children, stepchildren, and
25 adopted children of any firemen who suffered death as a result of any injury arising
26 out of and in the course of the performance of his official duties as a fireman, or
27 arising out of any activity while on or off duty in his capacity as a fireman in the
28 protection of life or property.

1 §1665.6. Lafayette Parish; health insurance coverage for surviving spouses and
2 children of law enforcement officers in certain cases

3 A. The employer of a law enforcement officer employed in Lafayette Parish
4 who suffers death as a result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the
5 performance of his official duties as a law enforcement officer, or arising out of any
6 activity while on or off duty in his capacity as a law enforcement officer in the
7 protection of life or property, shall provide and pay for health insurance coverage for
8 the law enforcement officer's surviving spouse for the remainder of the surviving
9 spouse's life following the death of the law enforcement officer.

10 B.(1) The employer of a law enforcement officer employed in Lafayette
11 Parish who suffers death as a result of any injury arising out of and in the course of
12 the performance of his official duties as a law enforcement officer, or arising out of
13 any activity while on or off duty in his capacity as a law enforcement officer in the
14 protection of life or property, shall provide and pay for health insurance coverage for
15 the law enforcement officer's child, stepchild, or adopted child who is any of the
16 following:

17 (a) Under the age of eighteen.

18 (b) Under the age of twenty-three and enrolled in and regularly attending a
19 secondary school or is a full-time student at an accredited college or university.

20 (c) Physically or mentally disabled.

21 (2) The employer shall provide and pay for the health insurance required by
22 this Subsection following the death of the law enforcement officer until the child no
23 longer meets the qualifications pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

24 C. If health insurance coverage is offered by the employer to active
25 members, the health insurance provided to a surviving spouse or child pursuant to
26 this Section shall be equal in coverage to that offered to active members.

27 D.(1) The surviving spouse may decline the health insurance coverage
28 required by Subsection A of this Section.

- (2) Under the age of 23 and enrolled in and regularly attending a secondary school or a full-time student at an accredited college or university.
- (3) Physically or mentally disabled.

Proposed law requires health insurance coverage for children until a child no longer meets the specified qualifications.

Proposed law applies retroactively to Jan. 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 40:1665.5 and 1665.6)