



2009 SENATE BILL 520

February 9, 2010 – Introduced by Senators HANSEN, COGGS, LEHMAN and TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives HRAYCHUCK, TURNER, ZEPNICK and BERCEAU. Referred to Committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief, and Revenue.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 66.0137 (1); *to amend* 66.0137 (3); and *to*
2 *create* 66.0137 (1) (b) and 66.0137 (5) (c) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring
3 municipalities to pay health insurance premiums for survivors of a fire fighter
4 who dies, or has died, in the line of duty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

If a city, village, or town (municipality) pays the health insurance premiums for its employees who are fire fighters, this bill requires the municipality to pay such premiums for the surviving spouse and dependent children of a fire fighter who dies, or has died, in the line of duty.

The requirement created in the bill does not apply to a surviving spouse who remarries or reaches the age of 65, or to a dependent child who reaches the age of 18 and is not a full-time high school student. The bill requires premium payments to be made for a dependent child who is a full-time or part-time student in an accredited college or university until the close of the calendar year in which the individual reaches the age of 27.

The bill first applies, retroactively, to a fire fighter who has died in the line of duty before the effective date of the bill.

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For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 66.0137 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 66.0137 (1) (intro.) and
2 amended to read:

3 66.0137 (1) DEFINITION. (intro.) In this section, “local:

4 (ae) “Local governmental unit” means a ~~city, village, town~~ municipality, county,
5 school district (as enumerated in s. 67.01 (5)), sewerage district, drainage district,
6 and, without limitation because of enumeration, any other political subdivision of
7 the state.

8 **SECTION 2.** 66.0137 (1) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

9 66.0137 (1) (b) “Municipality” means any city, village, or town.

10 **SECTION 3.** 66.0137 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 66.0137 (3) HEALTH INSURANCE FOR UNEMPLOYED PERSONS. Any ~~city, village,~~
12 ~~town,~~ municipality or county may purchase health or dental insurance for
13 unemployed persons residing in the ~~city, village, town,~~ municipality or county who
14 are not eligible for medical assistance under s. 49.46, 49.468, 49.47, or 49.471 (4) (a)
15 or (b).

16 **SECTION 4.** 66.0137 (5) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

17 66.0137 (5) (c) 1. Except as provided in subds. 2. and 3., if a municipality
18 provides for the payment of premiums for hospital, surgical, and other health
19 insurance for its fire fighters, it shall continue to pay such premiums for the
20 surviving spouse and dependent children of a fire fighter who dies in the line of duty.

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1 2. A municipality may not be required to pay the premiums described in subd.
2 1. for a surviving spouse upon the remarriage of the surviving spouse or upon the
3 surviving spouse reaching the age of 65.

4 3. An individual is not a dependent child for the purposes of subd. 1. after the
5 individual reaches the age of 18 unless one of the following applies:

6 a. The individual is a full-time student in a secondary school.

7 b. The individual is a full-time or part-time student in an accredited college
8 or university, except that this subd. 3. b. does not apply to such an individual after
9 the close of the calendar year in which the individual reaches the age of 27.

10 **SECTION 5. Initial applicability.**

11 (1) This act first applies, retroactively, to a fire fighter who has died in the line
12 of duty before the effective date of this subsection.

13

(END)