



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2013 Senate Bill 203**

**Senate Amendment 1**

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### Current Law

**Current law** requires a city, village, or town (municipality) that pays health insurance premiums for its fire fighters to pay such premiums for the surviving spouse and dependent children of a fire fighter who dies, or who has died, in the line of duty. The requirement is subject to a number of limitations, as specified in the statutes.

**The bill** requires a municipality or county that pays health insurance premiums for its law enforcement officers or emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to pay such premiums for the surviving spouse and dependent children of a law enforcement officer or EMT who dies, or has died, in the line of duty. The bill also requires the state to reimburse the municipality or county for the cost of premiums paid to surviving spouses and children of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs, as provided above. Reimbursement is only required if the premiums were not otherwise required to be paid by the municipality or county under an employment benefit provided to the fire fighter, law enforcement officer, or EMT, and only after any sick leave credits that may be used for the purchase of health insurance have been exhausted.

In addition, **the bill** requires the Department of Administration to establish a loan program for surviving spouses of law enforcement officers and fire fighters who have died in the line of duty.

### Senate Amendment 1

**Senate Amendment 1** removes the requirement that the premiums are not otherwise required to be paid by the municipality or county under an employment benefit provided to the fire fighter, law enforcement officer, or EMT. The amendment clarifies that the state will

reimburse the municipality or county for the cost of the premiums, without regard to whether the premiums are otherwise required to be paid by the municipality or county.

**Legislative History**

On September 9, 2013, the Senate Committee on Insurance and Housing voted to recommend adoption of Senate Amendment 1 to 2013 Senate Bill 203, on votes of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1. On the same date, the committee voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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