

SENATE BILL NO. 404—SENATORS JAMES, TOWNSEND, O'CONNELL, RAWSON, CARLTON, AMODEI, CARE, COFFIN, JACOBSEN, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NEAL, PORTER, RAGGIO, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TITUS, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

MARCH 12, 1999

Referred to Committee on Finance

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing benefits of surviving family members of certain police officers and firemen. (BDR 23-1416)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to programs for public employees; authorizing continued coverage under the state's program of group insurance without charge for the surviving spouse and any surviving child of certain police officers and firemen; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE
AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** Chapter 287 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a
2 new section to read as follows:
3 ***1. The surviving spouse and any surviving child of a police officer or***
4 ***fireman who was employed by a participating public agency and was***
5 ***killed in the line of duty may continue the coverage under the state's***
6 ***program of group insurance that was in effect for the surviving spouse or***
7 ***child on the date on which the police officer or fireman died. If the***
8 ***surviving spouse or child decides to continue such coverage, the spouse***
9 ***or child must notify in writing the participating public agency that***
10 ***employed the police officer or fireman within 60 days after the date of***
11 ***death of the police officer or fireman.***
12 ***2. After receiving notification from the surviving spouse or child***
13 ***pursuant to subsection 1, the participating public agency that employed***
14 ***the police officer or fireman shall pay the entire cost of the premiums or***
15 ***contributions for group insurance for the surviving spouse or child:***

1 (a) *For the duration of the surviving spouse's life or until the*
2 *surviving spouse remarries.*

3 (b) *Until the surviving child reaches 18 years of age.*

4 3. *As used in this section, "police officer" has the meaning ascribed*
5 *to it in NRS 617.135.*

6 **Sec. 2.** NRS 287.043 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 287.043 The committee on benefits shall:

8 1. Act as an advisory body on matters relating to group life, accident or
9 health insurance, or any combination of these, a program to reduce taxable
10 compensation or other forms of compensation other than deferred
11 compensation, for the benefit of all state officers and employees and other
12 persons who participate in the state's program of group insurance.

13 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, negotiate and
14 contract with the governing body of any public agency enumerated in NRS
15 287.010 which is desirous of obtaining group insurance for its officers,
16 employees and retired employees by participation in the state's program of
17 group insurance. The committee shall establish separate rates and coverage
18 for those officers, employees and retired employees based on actuarial
19 reports.

20 3. Give public notice in writing of proposed changes in rates or
21 coverage to each participating public employer who may be affected by the
22 changes. Notice must be provided at least 30 days before the effective date
23 of the changes.

24 4. Purchase policies of life, accident or health insurance, or any
25 combination of these, or a program to reduce the amount of taxable
26 compensation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 125, from any company qualified to
27 do business in this state or provide similar coverage through a plan of self-
28 insurance for the benefit of all eligible public officers, employees and
29 retired employees who participate in the state's program.

30 5. Consult the state risk manager and obtain his advice in the
31 performance of the duties set forth in this section.

32 6. Except as otherwise provided in this Title, develop and establish
33 other employee benefits as necessary.

34 7. Adopt such regulations and perform such other duties as are
35 necessary to carry out the provisions of NRS 287.041 to 287.049, inclusive,
36 *and section 1 of this act*, including the establishment of:

37 (a) Fees for applications for participation in the state's program and for
38 the late payment of premiums;

39 (b) Conditions for entry and reentry into the state's program by public
40 agencies enumerated in NRS 287.010; and

41 (c) The levels of participation in the state's program required for
42 employees of participating public agencies.

1 8. Appoint an independent certified public accountant. The accountant
2 shall provide an annual audit of the plan and report to the committee and
3 the legislative commission.

4 For the purposes of this section, "employee benefits" includes any form of
5 compensation provided to a state employee pursuant to this Title except
6 federal benefits, wages earned, legal holidays, deferred compensation and
7 benefits available pursuant to chapter 286 of NRS.

8 **Sec. 3.** NRS 287.044 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 287.044 1. A part of the cost of the premiums or contributions for
10 that group insurance, not to exceed the amount specified by law, applied to
11 both group life and group accident or health coverage, for each public
12 officer, except a senator or assemblyman, or employee electing to
13 participate in the group insurance program, may be paid by the department,
14 agency, commission or public agency which employs the officer or
15 employee in whose behalf that part is paid from money appropriated to or
16 authorized for that department, agency, commission or public agency for
17 that purpose. Participation by the state in the cost of premiums or
18 contributions must not exceed the amounts specified by law. If an officer or
19 employee chooses to cover his dependents, whenever this option is made
20 available by the committee on benefits, *except as otherwise provided in*
21 *section 1 of this act*, he must pay the difference between the amount of the
22 premium or contribution for the coverage for himself and his dependents
23 and the amount paid by the state.

24 2. A department, agency, commission or public agency shall not pay
25 any part of those premiums if the group life insurance or group accident or
26 health insurance is not approved by the committee on benefits.