

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1064
Ways and Means

(Delegate Hartman, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Income Tax Subtraction Modification – Death Benefits – Law Enforcement
Officers and Fire Fighters

This bill allows a subtraction modification against the personal income tax for a payment of a death benefit (to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income) under a collective bargaining agreement from a county or municipality in the State to the surviving spouse or other beneficiary of a law enforcement officer or fire fighter whose death arises out of or in the course of employment as a law enforcement officer or fire fighter. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and applies to tax year 2022 and beyond.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues decrease, likely minimally, beginning in FY 2025 to the extent subtraction modifications are claimed under the bill. The Comptroller’s Office can implement the bill’s changes with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Local revenues decrease, likely minimally, beginning in FY 2025 to the extent subtraction modifications are claimed under the bill. Local expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual may claim a subtraction modification against the personal income tax for a payment from a pension system to the surviving spouse or other beneficiary of a law enforcement officer or fire fighter whose death arises out of or in the course of employment as a law enforcement officer or fire fighter.

State/Local Revenues: General fund revenues decrease beginning in fiscal 2025 to the extent subtraction modifications are claimed under the bill. It is unknown how many taxpayers will be eligible for and claim the subtraction modification and the amount of their excludable death benefit payments; thus, a reliable estimate of the bill's impact on State general fund revenues and local income tax revenues is not feasible at this time. However, the Department of Legislative Services anticipates that any effect on State and local revenues is likely to be minimal.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 897 (Senator Carozza, *et al.*) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Maryland Municipal League; Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2024
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