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Patrick Moran – President

**SB 850 - State Personnel - Line-of-Duty Death and Funeral Benefits
Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2024**

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports SB 850. This legislation increases the funeral benefit the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) must pay to surviving dependents of correctional officers, law enforcement officers, public safety aviation employees and others, who are killed or die in the performance of their duties. This funeral benefit increases to \$25,000 from \$10,000 and can no longer be reduced by any related workers' compensation benefits that are paid. Additionally, SB 850 increases the death benefit for all state employees killed or die in the performance their duties from \$100,000 to \$125,000 and provides for reasonable funeral expenses up to \$25,000 to be paid where applicable. These benefits are indexed to inflation beginning in fiscal year 2026.

SB 850 is a good bill. When line-of-duty deaths tragically occur, they are sudden and often result in the loss of a primary wage-earner in a family. Providing death and funeral benefits in these instances, indexed with inflation, helps ensure that surviving family members of our public servants are adequately cared for.

We urge the committee to provide a favorable report.