

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 800 (Chairman, Appropriations Committee)
(Departmental - Department of State Police)

Appropriations

Executive Department - Funeral Benefits

This emergency departmental bill requires the State to pay reasonable funeral expenses, up to \$10,000, for any law enforcement or correctional officer; firefighter or marshal; or rescue squad member killed in the line of duty.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by an indeterminate amount, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: A small business impact statement was not provided by the Department of State Police in time for inclusion in this fiscal note. A revised fiscal note will be issued when the department's assessment becomes available.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: The bill requires the State to pay reasonable funeral expenses up to \$10,000 to the surviving family of public safety personnel who die in the line of duty. This benefit must be reduced by the amount of any related workers' compensation benefits paid. Under current law, workers' compensation pays \$2,500 toward funeral expenses. However, volunteer firefighters or volunteer emergency medical workers are not entitled to workers' compensation funeral benefits.

Any increase in general fund expenditures would depend upon the number of eligible public safety personnel who die in the line of duty, whether they are eligible for workers' compensation, and the amount of funeral expenses. During 1994 one law enforcement officer, no correctional officers, and three firefighters died in the line of duty. It is unknown how many emergency medical workers died in the line of duty, but it is assumed to be a small number.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Fiscal Services, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Office of the State Fire Marshal, Division of Correction), Executive Department, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

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Analysis by: Robert C. Bates

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710