

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 621 (Delegates M. Burns and D. Murphy)  
Appropriations

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**Public Safety Personnel - Death Benefits**

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This bill increases, from \$50,000 to \$100,000, the amount of death benefits the State pays for certain law enforcement officers, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, correctional officers, volunteer or professional firefighters or rescue squad members, and members of the State Fire Marshal's office who die or are killed in the line of duty.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate increase in general fund expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None. The bill would not directly affect small businesses.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Expenditures:** These death benefits are paid by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) out of general funds appropriated for this purpose. Although seven such benefits were paid in fiscal 1996, the average number of annual payments made in recent years has been five (\$250,000). Accordingly, general fund expenditures could increase by an additional \$250,000 annually based on an average of five death payments annually.

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**Information Source(s):** Office of the Governor, Department of Public Safety and

Correctional Services, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 1997

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