

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 651 (Chairman, Appropriations Committee)
(Departmental – Budget and Management)

Appropriations

Finance

State Law Enforcement Officers - Death Benefits

This departmental bill provides an additional \$50,000 death benefit for the surviving spouse, children, or dependent parents of any State law enforcement officer who is killed in the performance of duties on or after July 1, 2000.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2001 and is retroactive to July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Assuming that two State law enforcement officers are killed in the performance of their duties each year, general fund expenditures would increase by \$100,000 per year. The FY 2002 budget includes \$100,000 based on this legislation.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Budget and Management has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

Analysis

Current Law: The survivors of a State law enforcement officer currently receive \$50,000 if the officer is killed in the performance of duties.

Background: Chapter 179 (HB 1270) of 2000 codified several provisions that were collectively bargained between employee representatives and the Governor. One provision included in Chapter 179 increased the death benefit for employees killed in the performance of their duties from \$50,000 to \$100,000. According to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), this increase was intended to apply to all State employees, including State law enforcement officers. Because death benefits for State law enforcement officers are governed by a separate statutory provision (also providing a \$50,000 death benefit) that was not amended under Chapter 179, the increase to \$100,000 does not apply to them.

In addition to the lump sum death benefit payment, the pension systems for the State's law enforcement officers provide for "line of duty" death benefits. Under the State Police Retirement System, survivors are entitled to an annual benefit of 50% of average final compensation plus the return of accumulated contributions. Under the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System, survivors are entitled to an annual benefit of 50% of the applicable ordinary disability allowance.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management, State Retirement Agency, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 14, 2001
mld/jr Revised – Updated Budget Information – April 9, 2001

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