

SENATE BILL 247

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CF 0lr1745

By: **Senators Glassman, Klausmeier, and Munson**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2010

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hazardous Material Response Team Employees – Death Benefits and Funeral**
3 **Expenses – Local Government Agencies**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that certain individuals employed as hazardous material
5 response team employees for certain local government agencies are eligible for
6 certain death benefits and funeral expenses under certain circumstances;
7 providing that certain local government agencies may place in reserve each
8 fiscal year a certain amount to pay a certain death benefit and funeral benefit
9 under certain circumstances; and generally relating to benefits for hazardous
10 material response team employees employed by local government agencies.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Public Safety
13 Section 1–202(a), (b), and (d)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – Public Safety
18 Section 1–202(a–1), (g), and (h)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

21 BY adding to
22 Article – Public Safety
23 Section 1–202(j)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Public Safety**

2 1–202.

3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (2) (i) “Child” means a natural or adopted, legitimate or
5 illegitimate child or stepchild of the decedent.

6 (ii) “Child” includes a child or stepchild born posthumously.

7 (3) “Correctional officer” has the meaning stated in § 8–201(e)(1) of the
8 Correctional Services Article.9 (4) “Hazardous material” means any substance regulated as a
10 hazardous material under Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.11 (5) “Hazardous material response team employee” means an employee
12 of the Department of the Environment **OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY** who is
13 on call 24 hours a day to provide emergency response to a discharge of oil or a release
14 of hazardous material or other emergency response activity.15 (6) (i) “Law enforcement officer” has the meaning stated in § 3–101
16 of this article.

17 (ii) “Law enforcement officer” includes:

18 1. an officer who serves in a probationary status; and

19 2. an officer who serves at the pleasure of the appointing
20 authority of a county or municipal corporation.21 (7) “Performance of duties” includes, in the case of a volunteer or
22 career firefighter, public safety aviation employee, rescue squad member, or hazardous
23 material response team employee:

24 (i) actively participating in fighting a fire;

25 (ii) going to or from a fire;

26 (iii) performing other duties necessary to the operation or
27 maintenance of the fire company;28 (iv) actively participating in the ambulance, advanced life
29 support, or rescue work of an advanced life support unit or a fire, ambulance, or rescue
30 company, including going to or from an emergency or rescue;

1 (v) providing emergency or rescue assistance, whether acting
2 alone or at the direction of or with a fire, ambulance, or rescue company or advanced
3 life support unit;

4 (vi) actively participating in flight operations as a crew member
5 in a rotary or fixed wing aircraft; and

6 (vii) providing emergency response to a discharge of oil or a
7 release of hazardous material or other emergency response activity.

8 (8) "Public safety aviation employee" includes a pilot and aviation
9 maintenance technician employed by the State.

10 (9) "Stepchild" means a child of the surviving spouse who was living
11 with or dependent for support on the decedent at the time of the decedent's death.

12 (a-1) For purposes of this section, an individual served in the Afghanistan or
13 Iraq conflict if the individual was a member of the uniform services of the United
14 States who served in:

15 (1) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal
16 regulations, on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed
17 by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

18 (2) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal
19 regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by
20 the United States Secretary of Defense.

21 (b) (1) **[Subject] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (J) OF THIS**
22 **SECTION AND SUBJECT** to subsection (c) of this section and paragraph (2) of this
23 subsection, a death benefit of \$125,000 shall be paid to the surviving spouse, child,
24 dependent parent, or estate of each of the following individuals who is killed or dies in
25 the performance of duties on or after January 1, 2006:

26 (i) a law enforcement officer;

27 (ii) a correctional officer;

28 (iii) a volunteer or career firefighter or rescue squad member;

29 (iv) a sworn member of the office of State Fire Marshal;

30 (v) a public safety aviation employee;

31 (vi) a Maryland resident who was a member of the uniform
32 services of the United States serving in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or

1 (vii) a hazardous material response team employee.

2 (2) For fiscal year 2009, and for each following fiscal year, the death
3 benefit provided in the prior fiscal year shall be adjusted by any change in the
4 calendar year preceding the fiscal year in the Consumer Price Index [(all urban
5 consumers – United States city average – all items)] **(ALL URBAN CONSUMERS –**
6 **UNITED STATES CITY AVERAGE – ALL ITEMS)**, as published by the United States
7 Bureau of Labor Statistics.

8 (3) A death benefit under this subsection is in addition to:

9 (i) any workers' compensation benefits;

10 (ii) the proceeds of any form of life insurance, regardless of who
11 paid the premiums on the insurance; and

12 (iii) the funeral benefit provided under subsection (d) of this
13 section.

14 (d) (1) [Reasonable] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (J) OF**
15 **THIS SECTION, REASONABLE** funeral expenses, not exceeding \$10,000, shall be paid
16 to the surviving spouse, child, parent, or estate of each of the following individuals
17 who is killed or dies in the performance of duties:

18 (i) a law enforcement officer;

19 (ii) a correctional officer;

20 (iii) a volunteer or career firefighter or rescue squad member;

21 (iv) a public safety aviation employee;

22 (v) a sworn member of the office of State Fire Marshal; or

23 (vi) a hazardous material response team employee.

24 (2) The funeral benefit under this subsection shall be reduced by the
25 amount of any related workers' compensation benefits paid under § 9–689 of the Labor
26 and Employment Article.

27 (g) If the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services determines
28 that the benefits under this section are to be paid, the benefits shall be paid:

29 (1) to the decedent's surviving spouse;

1 (2) if no individual is eligible under item (1) of this subsection, to each
2 surviving child of the decedent in equal shares;

3 (3) (i) for a death benefit under subsection (b) of this section, if no
4 individual is eligible under item (1) or (2) of this subsection, to the decedent's
5 surviving parent, if the parent was a dependent as defined in § 152 of the Internal
6 Revenue Code; or

7 (ii) for any other benefit under this section, if no individual is
8 eligible under item (1) or (2) of this subsection, to the decedent's surviving parent; or

9 (4) if no individual is eligible under item (1), (2), or (3) of this
10 subsection, to the decedent's estate.

11 (h) Payments under this section shall be made out of money that the
12 Governor includes for that purpose in the State budget.

13 **(J) (1) THIS SUBSECTION ONLY APPLIES TO A DEATH BENEFIT**
14 **UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION OR A FUNERAL BENEFIT UNDER**
15 **SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION PAYABLE ON BEHALF OF A HAZARDOUS**
16 **MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM EMPLOYEE EMPLOYED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
17 **AGENCY.**

18 **(2) (I) A DEATH BENEFIT OR FUNERAL BENEFIT MAY ONLY BE**
19 **PAID IF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT EMPLOYS THE HAZARDOUS**
20 **MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM EMPLOYEE PLACES IN RESERVE EACH FISCAL**
21 **YEAR THE AMOUNT NEEDED TO PAY FOR ONE DEATH BENEFIT AND ONE**
22 **FUNERAL EXPENSE FOR A HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE TEAM EMPLOYEE.**

23 **(II) IF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND**
24 **CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DETERMINES THAT A DEATH BENEFIT OR FUNERAL**
25 **BENEFIT IS TO BE PAID, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT EMPLOYED**
26 **THE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE TEAM EMPLOYEE SHALL PAY TO THE**
27 **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES THE FUNDS**
28 **REQUIRED TO PAY THE BENEFIT.**

29 **(3) (I) A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY IS NOT REQUIRED TO**
30 **PLACE FUNDS IN RESERVE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

31 **(II) IF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY DOES NOT PLACE**
32 **FUNDS IN RESERVE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A DEATH**
33 **BENEFIT OR FUNERAL BENEFIT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS SECTION MAY**
34 **NOT BE PAID.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2010.