

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 5138-02  
Bill No.: Corrected HCS for HB 1964  
Subject: Education, Proprietary; Workers Compensation; Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies  
Type: Original  
Date: February 23, 2016

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Bill Summary: This proposal changes the laws regarding public safety officers who are eligible for a survivor's and disabled employee's educational grant and the disbursement of any unpaid workers compensation into his or her estate.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
General Revenue	(\$15,489)	(\$15,489)	(\$15,489)
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>(\$15,489)</b>	<b>(\$15,489)</b>	<b>(\$15,489)</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.  
This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### §173.260 Public Safety Officer Survivor Grant Program

**Oversight** notes this proposal would add air ambulance pilots, nurses and respiratory therapists as well as emergency medical technicians and uniformed employees of the State Fire Marshall to the definition of Public Safety Officer for the Public Safety Officer and Employee's Child Survivor Grant Program. This would allow family members of these people to receive the Survivor grant. The Survivor Grant Program provides educational grants to the children or spouses of certain public employees killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. The current average award is \$4,867.

In response to the previous version, officials at the **Department of Higher Education (DHE)** assumed that in the last fifteen years there have been 11 emergency medical technicians and four air ambulance personnel killed in the line of duty. Based on this data and the current distribution of recipients, DHE estimates this change will result in the payment of three additional individuals during the period of the fiscal impact statement. The FY 2015 average award under this program was \$4,867. Inflating that number at three percent per year, the average award for FY 2017 would be \$5,163. The total needed to pay three additional recipients would be \$15,489. Those numbers are inflated by three percent for FY 2018 and FY 2019.

Officials at the **Department of Public Safety's Division of Fire Safety** assume this would not fiscally impact the Division. However, the uniformed staff of the Division would be impacted as they would be eligible for these benefits. There are currently 56 uniformed employees.

#### §287.243 Line of Duty Compensation

**Oversight** notes this provision would allow a spouse, child or personal representative of any person killed in the line of duty on or after June 19, 2009, to claim the \$25,000 line of duty compensation if they did not claim it previously.

Officials at the **Department of Labor and Industrial Relations** assume that if this would allow the filing of claims beyond the one year time frame, this could cause a cost to General Revenue for those claims. It is unknown how many additional claims would be filed. The Department assumes it could handle the administrative impact of this proposal with existing resources.

The line of duty compensation is \$25,000 per person and is required to be claimed within one year of death. The program began in 2009. According to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations the following has been paid on the program in recent years:

ASSUMPTION (continued)

FY 2012	2 people	\$50,000
FY 2013	13 people	\$325,000
FY 2014	10 people	\$250,000
FY 2015	1 person	\$25,000

The Department is usually appropriated \$450,000 to pay any claims during the year. Since this provision would allow those that did not claim during the one year period, to receive money, it would be assumed they would all file for the claim in FY 2017. If just 4 people receive the money this would increase the cost of the program by \$100,000. The Department would use existing staff to process these additional claims. **Oversight** would assume the current \$450,000 funding would be enough to cover these missed claims.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2017 (10 Mo.)	FY 2018	FY 2019
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**GENERAL REVENUE**

<u>Cost - DHE -expanding the Public Safety Officer Grant Program to include Air Ambulance Personnel, Emergency Medical Technicians, &amp; State Fire Marshall employees</u>	<u>(\$15,489)</u>	<u>(\$15,489)</u>	<u>(\$15,489)</u>
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<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>(\$15,489)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$15,489)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$15,489)</u></b>
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<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2017 (10 Mo.)	FY 2018	FY 2019
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill adds several professions, including air ambulance pilots, air ambulance registered professional nurses, air ambulance registered respiratory therapists, uniformed employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and their children and spouses, and specified emergency medical technicians and their children and spouses to the list of those eligible to receive a public safety officer or employee survivor grant from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education.

This bill also adds a uniformed employee of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and his or her child and spouse, and specified emergency medical technicians and their children and spouses to the list of those eligible to receive unpaid workers' compensation claims when the employee is killed in the line of duty.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Higher Education  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations  
Department of Public Safety's Office of the State Fire Marshall



Mickey Wilson, CPA  
Director  
February 23, 2016

Ross Strope  
Assistant Director  
February 23, 2016