

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 152

PRINTER NO. 1181

AMOUNT

\$1,445,000

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

January 22, 2015

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Tallman

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 152 amends the Emergency Law Enforcement Personnel Death benefits Act (Act 101 of 1976) to extend the application deadline to apply for death benefits from 90 days to four (4) years. It also extends death benefits to campus police officers at the Commonwealth's state-owned, state-related and state-aided colleges and universities and clarifies that an application for benefits must be made to the Department of General Services.

The act is scheduled to take effect immediately, and the provisions are retroactive to the date of enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The law presently provides death benefits to the survivors of public safety personnel who are killed in the line of duty, including a heart attack or stroke, which occurs within 24 hours of a physical training exercise or emergency response. The benefit includes a one-time lump-sum payment of \$100,000 adjusted for inflation since 1995 and monthly supplemental income benefits paid to survivors of paid personnel equal to their salary less workers' compensation and retirement benefits.

The Department of General Services Bureau of Risk Management has indicated there are possibly nine (9) cases that would be eligible for benefits by extending the application deadline from 90 days to four (4) years. It is also believed there is one (1) case in which a campus police officer would qualify for benefits. At present, the lump-sum survivor benefit is approximately \$128,000, and monthly supplemental income payments amount to an average of \$33,000 annually per eligible recipient.

Assuming all 10 cases identified receive a lump-sum payment and 50% of the cases are paid personnel with survivors eligible for monthly supplemental income, the first year cost to the Commonwealth as a result of the enactment of House Bill 152 is estimated to be \$1,445,000. In future years, monthly supplement income payments are estimated to cost \$165,000.