



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 152

PRINTERS NO. 1181

PRIME SPONSOR: Tallman

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 152, Printer's Number 1181, amends Act 101 of 1976, as amended, known as the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, to further provide for payment of death benefits for emergency and law enforcement personnel. This legislation would take effect immediately upon enactment.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill amends Act 101 of 1976 by extending the filing period to submit an application and certification of death occurrence of emergency or law enforcement personnel to the Commonwealth from 90 days to four years. The Act provides death benefits to survivors of law enforcement officers, ambulance service or rescue squad members, firefighters, certified hazardous material response team members or National Guard members who are killed in the line of duty or who die from a heart attack or stroke within 24 hours of a physical training exercise or emergency response. The bill also extends the death benefit to survivors of campus police officers of the Commonwealth's state-owned, state-related and state-aided colleges and universities. The bill also specifies that the amendment of filing period shall apply to an individual whose date of death occurs before, on or after the effective date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The enactment of the legislation may result in maximum new one-time costs to the Commonwealth of \$512,000 for death benefit payments if the three potential cases identified by the Department of General Services file for the death benefit and a state university files an application for the survivors of a newly eligible campus police officer (\$128,000 X 4). Ongoing costs may be incurred for estimated supplemental income payments for two decedents' eligible beneficiaries (\$33,000 X 2). The Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act provides for the payment of supplemental income to certain beneficiaries based on the decedent's monthly salary less workers' compensation and pension and retirement payments. Therefore, total first-year costs may reach a maximum of \$578,000 if all potentially eligible cases are filed. Ongoing costs for supplemental income may also be incurred. The supplemental income payments are adjusted for inflation each year and eligible beneficiaries receive these payments until the surviving spouse dies or the child or children reach the age of 18 or, if the attending college, until the age of 23.

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Taglang  
Jeffrey Clukey  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

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*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*