

Department of Planning and Budget

2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB1684

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☒ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron McDougle

3. Committee Senate Committee on General Laws

4. Title Line of Duty Act

5. Summary/Purpose: The bill would expand coverage under the Line of Duty Act to include any employee of the Department of Emergency Management and any employee of any county, city, or town performing emergency management or emergency services duties. Currently only Department of Emergency Management hazardous material officers are covered under the Line of Duty Act.

6. Fiscal impact: DPB cannot estimate the potential fiscal impact associated with this bill. The Line of Duty Act provides for payment to beneficiaries of certain deceased public safety officers. If the officer's death occurred while in the line of duty, the beneficiary is entitled to receive \$75,000. If the officer's death arose out of and in the course of his employment or was within five years from his date of retirement, the beneficiary is entitled to receive \$25,000. Also, under the Act certain disabled public safety officers, their spouses and dependents, and beneficiaries of certain deceased public safety officers are entitled to receive continued health insurance coverage fully paid for by the Commonwealth. DPB cannot estimate the number of individuals who would potentially be impacted by this bill. While the bill would cover an additional 79 full-time Department of Emergency Management employees, it also would cover an undetermined number of wage employees, including adjunct personnel and reservists. In addition, the number of local government employees who would be covered under this bill would depend largely on the number and magnitude of any events requiring the performance of emergency management or emergency services duties, which are not defined in the bill.

7. Budget amendment necessary: See Item 6.

8. Fiscal implications: See Item 6.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Accounts; Department of State Police; Department of Emergency Management; all counties, cities, and towns.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: This bill is identical to SB822 as passed by the Senate.

Date: 02/06/03/mar

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cc: Secretary of Finance
Secretary of Public Safety