

## Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** SB 885

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

**2. Patron** Deeds

**3. Committee** Finance

**4. Title** Line of Duty Act

**5. Summary/Purpose:** The bill would further define the term "deceased person" under the Line of Duty Act to include any individual listed in the definition of deceased person who died as a direct and proximate result of the performance of his duty if (i) the individual while on duty engaged in a situation, and such engagement involved nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical law-enforcement, fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, emergency medical services, prison security, disaster relief, or other emergency response activity or participated in a training exercise, and such participation involved nonroutine stressful or strenuous activity, and (ii) the individual died as result of a heart attack or stroke suffered while engaging or participating in such activity described in (i) while still on that duty after so engaging or participating in such an activity or not later than 24 hours after so engaging or participating in such activity. The proposed changes make beneficiaries eligible for payment of \$100,000 instead of the current \$25,000 payment for deaths arising in the course of employment. The bill would also require that the \$100,000 death benefit be indexed and adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.

**6. Fiscal impact:** DPB cannot estimate the fiscal impact associated with this bill. It would depend on a number of factors, including the number of eligible public safety officers who meet the amended definition, the number of resulting claims that are filed, and the annual changes in the Consumer Price Index. According to the Department of Accounts, the number of past claims that would be eligible for the incremental payment would be negligible. Likewise, it would appear future claims would be negligible also.

**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 Accounts Transfer Payments; Department of State Police.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** The bill, as written, will apply the Consumer Price Index to the \$100,000 line of duty death benefit payment. If it is the intent to apply the Index to the \$25,000 line of duty death benefit payment, Section 9.1-402 paragraph C needs an amendment similar to the proposed amendment to paragraph B.

**11. Other comments:** This bill is identical to HB 2186 as introduced.

**Date:** 01/18/2007 / jwe

**Document:** G:\2007Session\SB885.DOC

cc: Secretary of Finance

Secretary of Public Safety