



ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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First Regular Session

Senate: FIN DP 5-1-1-0 | APPROP DP 10-0-0-0 | 3rd Read: 24-3-2-0

House: GOV DP 7-0-0-0

SB 1157: workers' compensation; death benefits; remarriage

Sponsor: Senator Gowan, LD 19

Caucus & COW

Overview

Allows a surviving spouse to continue receiving death benefits if they remarry.

History

In the event of a loss sustained on account of injury or death specified employees and their dependents are entitled to receive compensation. These employees include but are not limited to: 1) all persons in the service of the state of Arizona and its municipalities including police and fire departments; 2) specified lessees of mining property; 3) firefighters, volunteer firefighters, policemen and voluntary policemen; 4) members of the Department of Public Safety reserve; and 5) members of a volunteer sheriff's reserve (A.R.S. §§ [23-901](#), [23-1021](#)).

In the case of an injury involving death the following compensation amounts are prescribed in statute: 1) burial expenses of \$5,000; and 2) differing percentages of the average monthly wage of the deceased individual based on the existence of a surviving spouse or dependent kin. A surviving spouse's benefits terminate upon their death or remarriage. The benefits for surviving children cease upon the child's eighteenth birthday, unless they are incapable of self-support ([A.R.S. § 23-1046](#)).

Provisions

1. Removes language that terminates a surviving spouse's death benefits upon their remarriage.
2. Applies retroactively from January 1, 2024, to the spouses of first responders. (Sec. 2)
3. Defines *first responder*. (Sec. 2)
4. Makes technical changes. (Sec. 1)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes)

☐ Prop 108 (40 votes)

☐ Emergency (40 votes)

☐ Fiscal Note