



March 1, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Authorizes the estate of an emergency call taker or public safety dispatcher who is killed in the line of duty to receive an annuity and be eligible to receive health benefits for up to two years after the death of the emergency call taker or public safety dispatcher.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – For each individual death benefit awarded, there will be an increase in state expenditures of \$50,000 per benefit per year over a five-year period for a total of \$250,000. Any health insurance benefit costs incurred by local governments to provide benefits to surviving dependents will shift to the state. The extent and timing of any such impacts are dependent upon multiple unknown factors and cannot be determined with reasonable certainty.**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-51-210, the estate of a law enforcement officer who is killed in the line of duty is entitled to receive a \$250,000 annuity, paid by the state in installments of \$50,000 each year for five years.
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 8-27-210 establishes continued health insurance coverage for surviving family members of full-time state and locally employed first responders killed in the line of duty, if approved by the State Insurance Committee. Based on information previously provided by the Department of Finance & Administration, such benefits have not been approved; therefore, any increase in state expenditures is considered not significant.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-27-404(b), if a local government offers health insurance benefits to first responders, the local government may offer or continue to provide health insurance benefits to the surviving spouse and children of a first responder killed in the line of duty for up to two years after the death of the first responder. The state must reimburse a local government for the local government's portion of the health insurance costs.
- The proposed legislation adds an emergency call taker or public safety dispatcher's surviving spouse and children to the list of those who would be eligible for health insurance benefits if the local government offers health insurance benefits.
- It is assumed that most local governments participate in providing benefits for survivors and will be reimbursed by the state; however, local governments can choose from a

variety of healthcare coverages, and the rates vary between plans offered by each local government.

- In the event such a death occurs in a local government that provides benefits for survivors, there will be an effective decrease in local government expenditures. Any such decrease in local government expenditures is dependent on multiple unknown factors, including the location and timing of any deaths, and cannot be reasonably determined.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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