

Department of Planning and Budget 2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB822

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

2. Patron Norment

3. Committee Passed Both Houses

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 who is performing official duties of the agency, when those duties are related to a major disaster or emergency, and any employee of any county, city, or town performing official emergency management or emergency services duties in cooperation with the Department of Emergency Management, when those duties are related to a major disaster or emergency or a local emergency. Currently, only Department of Emergency Management hazardous materials 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. It would depend largely on the number and magnitude of any disasters or emergencies.

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 Emergency Management; Department of State Police; all counties, cities, and towns.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 02/28/03/mar

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cc: Secretary of Finance
Secretary of Public Safety