LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 979** HLS 26RS 1421
Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
Opp. Chamb. Action:
Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: June 1, 2026 8:41 AM
Author: WILEY
Dept./Agy.: Department of Public Safety
Subject: Survivor benefits of law enforcement officers and firemen
Analyst: Katherine Granier

LAW ENFORCE/OFFICERS EN +$800,000 GF EX See Note
Increases the benefit paid to survivors of law enforcement officers and firemen

Proposed law amends R.S. 40:1665(C)(1) and 1665.2(C)(1) to increase the maximum survivor benefit by $50,000, from $250,000 to $300,000 for survivors of qualifying firemen and law enforcement. Proposed law clarifies administrative procedures for determining eligibility, processing claims, and distributing benefits. Proposed law provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	**$800,000**	**$800,000**	**$800,000**	**$800,000**	**$800,000**	**$4,000,000**
Agy. Self-Gen.	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Ded./Other	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Federal Funds	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Local Funds	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Annual Total	**$800,000**	**$800,000**	**$800,000**	**$800,000**	**$800,000**	**$4,000,000**

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Agy. Self-Gen.	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Ded./Other	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Federal Funds	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Local Funds	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Annual Total	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will increase annual SGF expenditures by approximately $800,000 due to a $50,000 benefit increase per survivor. Proposed law will increase the maximum Firefighter and Law Enforcement Officer Survivor Benefit by $50,000, raising the total potential benefit from $250,000 to $300,000 per eligible survivor. Based on historical data from the Office of Risk Management (ORM), an average of 16 benefit payments has been made annually over the past five fiscal years (FY 22 – FY 26).

Presuming this ongoing average, the proposed increase would result in an additional $800,000 in SGF expenditures annually (16 × $50,000 = $800,000). Administrative costs for processing claims are expected to remain minimal and manageable within the existing ORM staff.

The SGF appropriation for these benefits is provided pursuant to R.S. 39:1533(A)(2), which funds payments on behalf of the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor Benefit Review Board.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules

[x] 13.5.1 >= $100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

[ ] 13.5.2 >= $500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House

[x] 6.8(F)(1) >= $100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

[ ] 6.8(G) >= $500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer