

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 604 – SB 763

March 1, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes that the estate, of any first responder from a local emergency management agency, who is killed in the line of duty is entitled to a \$25,000 payment from the General Fund after the receipt by the Department of Finance and Administration (F&A) of a certified death certificate and an affidavit from the decedent's employer that the decedent was killed in the line of duty.

Establishes that all local emergency management agency personnel are to be considered first responders from local emergency management agencies, with all the rights, benefits, privileges, and protections that are available to them pursuant to state and local laws; therefore, the estate beneficiaries of any local emergency management agency personnel who is killed in the line of duty would be eligible for this \$25,000 death benefit.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

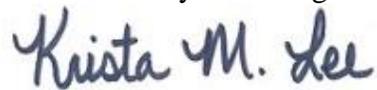
Increase State Expenditures - \$25,000

Assumptions:

- Currently, death benefits are provided to the estates of firefighters, volunteer rescue squad workers, and law enforcement personnel who are killed in the line of duty.
- The current state budget includes recurring death benefit amounts for four law enforcement officers totaling \$100,000 (4 officers x \$25,000), and for two firefighters and one rescue squad worker totaling \$75,000 [(2 firefighters + 1 rescue squad worker) x \$25,000], for a total of \$175,000. Currently, any unused funding reverts back to the General Fund at the end of each fiscal year.
- Based on information from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), the most recent and known death of a local emergency management agency personnel occurred in 2010.
- It is reasonable to assume that if this bill passes, and to properly budget for death benefits payable to the estate of a first responder killed in the line of duty, a recurring appropriation of \$25,000 from the General Fund would be required. However, in any fiscal year in which the death benefit is not paid such funding will revert back to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

CERTIFICATION:

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

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

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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