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Introduced by Representatives Yantachka of Charlotte and Sibiliala of Dover

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Public safety; law enforcement officers; survivors benefits

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide the same monetary benefit currently available to survivors of firefighters and emergency personnel to survivors of law enforcement officers.

An act relating to survivor benefits for law enforcement officers

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. chapter 181 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 181. BENEFITS FOR THE SURVIVORS OF EMERGENCY

PERSONNEL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

§ 3171. DEFINITIONS

~~For purposes of~~ As used in this chapter:

(1) “Board” means the ~~emergency personnel survivors benefit review board~~ Emergency Personnel and Law Enforcement Officers Survivors Benefit Review Board.

\* \* \*

(3) “Emergency personnel” means:

1 (A) firefighters as defined in subdivision 3151(3) of this title;

2 (B) ambulance service, emergency medical personnel, first responder  
3 service, and volunteer personnel as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2651.

4 (4) “Line of duty” means:

5 (A) ~~answering or returning from~~ With respect to emergency  
6 personnel:

7 (i) service in answer to a call of the department or service for a  
8 fire, or emergency or training drill, including going to and returning from a fire  
9 or emergency or participating in a fire or emergency training drill; or

10 ~~(B)(ii)~~ (ii) similar service in another town or district to which the  
11 department or service has been called for firefighting or emergency purposes.

12 (B) With respect to law enforcement officers:

13 (i) service as a law enforcement officer in answer to a complaint  
14 lodged with the department, including going to, returning from, and  
15 investigating the complaint or disorder; or

16 (ii) service under orders from the department or in any emergency  
17 for which the law enforcement officer serves as a law enforcement officer.

18 \* \* \*

19 (7) “Survivor” means a spouse, child, or parent of emergency personnel  
20 or a law enforcement officer.

1           (8) “Law enforcement officer” means a law enforcement officer who  
2           has been certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council pursuant  
3           to section 2358 of this title.

4           § 3172. EMERGENCY PERSONNEL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

5                   OFFICERS SURVIVORS BENEFIT REVIEW BOARD

6           (a)(1) There is created the ~~emergency personnel survivors benefit review~~  
7           ~~board which~~ Emergency Personnel and Law Enforcement Officers Survivors  
8           Benefit Review Board that shall consist of the ~~state treasurer~~ State Treasurer or  
9           designee, the ~~attorney general~~ Attorney General or designee, the ~~executive~~  
10          ~~director~~ Chief Fire Service Training Officer of the Vermont ~~fire service~~  
11          ~~training council~~ Fire Service Training Council or designee, ~~and the Executive~~  
12          Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council or designee, one  
13          member of the public to represent the interests of emergency personnel  
14          appointed by the ~~governor~~ Governor for a term of two years, ~~and one member~~  
15          of the public to represent the interests of law enforcement officers appointed  
16          by the Governor for a term of two years.

17          (2) Survivors of ~~emergency personnel, employed by or who volunteer~~  
18          ~~for the state of Vermont, a county or municipality of the state, or a nonprofit~~  
19          ~~entity which provides services in the state, the following individuals~~ who die in  
20          the line of duty or of an occupation-related illness may request the ~~board~~ Board  
21          award a monetary benefit under section 3173 of this title.;





1 the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward. Interest earned shall remain  
2 in the Fund.

3 (b) [Repealed.]

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.