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**Act No. 102 (S.89). An act relating to expanding survivor benefits**

**Subjects: Public safety; survivors' benefits; emergency personnel**

This act adds four additional categories of employees to the definition of emergency personnel whose survivors are eligible to receive a lump-sum payment if the employee dies in the line of duty or from an occupation-related illness. The four new categories are: law enforcement officers; facility employees of the Department of Corrections and Department of Corrections employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community; classified family services employees in the Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families; and classified medical employees of State-operated therapeutic community residences or inpatient psychiatric hospital units. The survivors' benefit for these new categories of emergency personnel shall be payable for qualifying employee deaths that occur on or after July 1, 2026. This act also permits the Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Review Board to pay reasonable fees from the Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Special Fund for a medical expert and other services as necessary to review applications involving deaths from occupation-related illnesses. Finally, this act permits the Emergency Board to transfer monies into the Special Fund when the General Assembly is not in session if the balance of the Special Fund is insufficient to pay monetary benefits awarded by the Board.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026