



**152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL:	HOUSE BILL NO. 133
SPONSOR:	Representative Dorsey Walker
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 18 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH BENEFITS.

Assumptions:

1. This Act is effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act deletes suicide from the list of exclusions from payment of line-of-duty death benefits as contained in 18 Del. C. §6601 (3)(c).
3. In doing so, this Act would establish suicide as a death in the line of duty for those "Covered persons" as defined in 18 Del. C. §6601(2), including Delaware first responders, police, firefighters, correctional officers, probation officers and the National Guard.
4. For each death in the line of duty of a covered person, designated beneficiaries are eligible for the following:
 - a. An amount totaling \$200,000, payable in annual installments, with the maximum amount payable in any one calendar year being \$40,000.
 - b. Tuition, for no more than four years for each dependent child of such covered person as long as such child is enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a college or university.
 - c. Health insurance for dependent children of covered persons, unless covered by the federal government, Tricare, or a similar program.
5. For purposes of this analysis, only the monetary payment is considered. Tuition and health insurance would be dependent upon family specifics, making cost impacts indeterminable.
6. According to the Ruderman Foundation White Paper on Mental Health and Suicide of First Responders, using data from the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance and the Badge of Life, the suicide rate for firefighters/emergency medical service is 18 per 100,000 persons, while the suicide rate for law enforcement is 11-17 per 100,000 persons.
7. It is assumed there are approximately 15,000 covered persons eligible for line-of-duty death benefits applicable under this Act.
8. Applying the range of 11-18 per 100,000 to the estimated number of covered persons yields 2-3 suicides per year which would result in the payment of line-of-duty death benefits.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2024:	\$ 80,000 - \$120,000
Fiscal Year 2025	\$160,000 - \$240,000
Fiscal Year 2026	\$240,000 - \$360,000

Prepared by Robert Scoglietti
Office of the Controller General