



153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL: HOUSE BILL NO. 473
SPONSOR: Representative Shupe
DESCRIPTION: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 18 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH BENEFITS.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act would extend line of duty death benefits to county or municipal public works employees working in job-related activities to construct, repair, or maintain public works infrastructure.
3. Under current law, line of duty death benefits include a maximum payout of \$375,000 payable in annual installments, with the maximum amount payable in any one calendar year being \$50,000. In addition, each dependent child is eligible for four years of higher-education tuition and health insurance until age 26.
4. Line of duty benefits are paid from the State's Self Insurance Fund, administered by the Statewide Benefits Office within the Department of Human Resources.
5. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 1,770 employees in Delaware local governments in 2025 employed in areas covered by the bill, including Highways, Solid Waste Management, Sewerage, Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources, Water Supply, and Electric Supply.
6. The fiscal impact of this legislation would be dependent upon a forecast of these employees perishing in the line of duty. Estimating this is not possible, thus the fiscal impact is indeterminable.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2027: Indeterminable
Fiscal Year 2028: Indeterminable
Fiscal Year 2029: Indeterminable

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