

Legislative Analysis



PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS BENEFIT PROGRAM BENEFIT INCREASE

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Senate Bill 834 (S-1) as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Kevin Hertel
House Committee: Appropriations
Senate Committee: Veterans and Emergency Services
Complete to 9-18-24

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 834 would amend the Public Safety Officers Benefit Act (2004 PA 46) to increase the one-time benefit paid for a *public safety officer* who dies or is permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty from \$25,000 to \$50,000 beginning October 1, 2024.

Public safety officer means a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew who serves a public agency or entity created by a local government in Michigan.

In the event of an officer's death, the act requires the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to pay the benefit to one of the following using funds from the Public Safety Officers Benefit Fund:

- The surviving spouse of the deceased officer.
- If the deceased officer does not leave a surviving spouse, the deceased officer's dependents.
- If the deceased officer does not leave a surviving spouse or dependents, the deceased officer's estate.

Additionally, if the officer is permanently and totally disabled, the act requires MCOLES to pay the benefit to the spouse, to the dependents (if there is no spouse), or to the entity providing care to the officer (if there is neither a spouse nor dependents).

MCL 28.634

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would increase the amount of the benefit paid under the Public Safety Officers Benefit Program. Increasing the benefit amount could result in increased GF/GP costs for the state if the cost of benefit payments exceeds the balance available in the fund. The number of benefit payments issued by MCOLES varies from year to year. MCOLES estimates that an increase in the benefit amount would currently be covered by existing funds. Depending on benefit volumes, additional GF/GP may be required in future fiscal years to offset benefit payments. The projected fund balance for October 1, 2024, is \$1.2 million.

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