
Fiscal Impact Statement

Date: February 24, 2022

Bill Number, Version, Author: (HB 4371) Introduced, Ford

Legislation Summary:

An Act relating to workers' compensation; amending 85A O.S. 2021, Section 47, which relates to beneficiaries in case of death; and providing an effective date.

Fiscal Impact Report:

- The bill could have a significant impact.
 - The bill will extend death benefits to surviving spouses even after remarriage for all troopers killed in the scope of their duties.
- Fiscal impact.
 - Based off two workers' compensation claims involving death of troopers while operating within the scope of their duties the fiscal impact would be over \$1M per spouse in these situations.
 - Calculation for these claims is as follows:
 - Contemplating a life expectancy of 85 years of age would provide the following:
 - Surviving spouse 50YO – spousal support would calculate to 35 years at \$1.07M.
 - Surviving spouse 48YO – spousal support would calculate to 37 years at \$1.15M.
 - A third death claim was denied as the cause was not deemed within the scope of duties so there is not a DOB for the surviving spouse.
 - The Consolidated Workers' Compensation Program administered by OMES has only been operating seven years so there is limited loss information to provide fiscal impact. The fiscal impact would be significantly higher if any of the surviving spouses were in their 20s – 30s. The law already provides survivor benefits to minors through 18YO or graduation, whichever is later and extends to full-time college students for four years. Death benefits to minors do not end when the surviving spouse remarries. Death benefits are provided to surviving spouses as the family has been impacted by the loss of an income due to a death while operating within the scope of duties. By extending the death benefit to surviving spouses after remarriage with this legislation, the surviving spouse would be theoretically having the opportunity to earn three incomes for the family.