

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 10 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Barton, Cameron, Edwards C., Esquivel, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thatcher, Witt, Schaufler
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases benefits paid for final disposition and funeral expenses in workers' compensation death claims from 10 times to 20 times the average weekly wage. Clarifies that costs of final disposition and funeral expenses is to be paid by the workers' compensation insurer or self-insured employer. Requires that if any part of the benefit is unpaid 60 days after claim acceptance, the unpaid amount must be paid to the workers' estate. Increases benefits to a child or dependent from the ages of 18 to 23, with no surviving parent, to 4.35 times 66-2/3 percent of the average weekly wage. Clarifies that benefits continue until the child ceases to attend a higher education program, graduates from an approved institute or program, or until their 23rd birthday, whichever is earlier.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Overview of SB 835 (2007) *Death Benefit Study Report*
- Possibility of reviewing workers' compensation benefits on a set schedule
- How proposed benefits compare to other states
- Approval from the Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC)

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 835 (2007) requested that the Workers' Compensation Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) study the adequacy of death-related benefits available to workers' families and dependents under workers' compensation law. SB 110 is a result of the study's findings.