

REVENUE: No revenue impact  
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass  
Vote: 4 - 1 - 0  
Yeas: Monnes Anderson, Prozanski, Telfer, Rosenbaum  
Nays: George  
Exc.: 0  
Prepared By: Jeremy Sarant, Administrator  
Meeting Dates: 1/28, 2/4

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**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. Directs that costs of final disposition and funeral expenses be paid, and that remaining benefits be paid to worker's estate sixty days after claim acceptance. Increases benefits to an eligible child or dependent, age 18 to 23, with no surviving parent, to 4.35 times 66-2/3 percent of the average weekly wage, as long as the child is attending higher education. Directs that unpaid permanent partial disability awards owed to a deceased worker without statutory dependents be paid to the worker's estate.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Amount and use of death benefits
- Ultimate distribution of permanent partial disability awards paid into worker's estate

**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 the workers' compensation laws. The management and labor representatives of MLAC found that death benefits were not adequate in amount and too restricted in use, and that in some cases, children and dependents of deceased workers were severely limited in their ability continue their educations. The provisions of this bill arose out of that study, and have been recommended by MLAC.