

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Workforce

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Matthew Germer, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/2, 3/9, 4/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits certain occupational injuries or diseases to qualify for benefits from Public Safety Memorial Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Scope of measure
- History of compensation for public safety officers
- Worker’s compensation definition of “permanent and total disability”
- Administration of Public Safety Memorial Board
- Impact on Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: The Public Safety Memorial Fund provides benefits to eligible public safety officers. The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board oversees the Fund and awards benefits to eligible applicants. Public safety officers with a qualifying disability, or family members of public safety officers who suffered a qualifying death or disability, are eligible for Fund benefits. Currently, deaths and disabilities qualify if they are the direct or proximate result of an enforcement action, an emergency response or public safety training for an enforcement action, or an emergency response that the public safety officer is authorized or obligated to perform, or if it is the result of an act committed against the officer because of the officer’s position as a public safety officer.

Senate Bill 496 includes certain compensable workers’ compensation claims as qualifying disabilities for eligibility for Fund benefits.