

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/04/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 05/04

**Vote:**

Yeas: 10 - Barreto, Barton, Doherty, Esquivel, Evans, Heard, Holvey, Kennemer, Nosse, Weidner

Exc: 1 - Fagan

**Prepared By:** Jan Nordlund, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Clarifies that death or permanent total disability that is a compensable workers' compensation claim is a qualifying criteria for eligibility for benefits from the Public Safety Memorial Fund.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Source of funding

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Public Safety Memorial Fund provides benefits to eligible public safety officers and their families. The Public Safety Memorial Fund Board oversees the Fund and awards benefits to eligible applicants. The Board is appointed by the Governor from the membership of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training. Public safety officers with a qualifying disability, or family members of public safety officers who suffered a qualifying death or permanent total disability, can apply for benefits. Currently, a death or permanent total disability qualifies only in the following cases: if it is the "direct or proximate" result of an enforcement action, an emergency response, or a 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. However, not all work-related injuries or deaths are "direct or proximate" to an enforcement action, and thus the public safety officer or their family may not be eligible for benefits from the Public Safety Memorial Fund.

Senate Bill 496 includes death or permanent total disability that is a compensable workers' compensation claim as qualifying criteria for eligibility for benefits from the Public Safety Memorial Fund.