

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 96

DATE: April 1, 2003

Version: First Engrossment

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Subject: Public Employer Reimbursement for Certain Public Safety Officer Benefits

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Overview

When a peace officer or firefighter is injured on the job, the state requires the officer or firefighter's employer to continue paying for health benefits. The state, in turn, reimburses those costs. However, under current practice, when the money runs out for a given year, the state denies further claims. Therefore, not all employers receive reimbursement.

Section

- 1 Public safety officer's benefit account.** Clarifies that money in the public safety officer's benefit account does not revert to the general fund until claims for a given fiscal year are either paid or denied.
- 2 Public employer reimbursement.** This section modifies the state's benefit reimbursement policy to provide that if money in the public safety officer benefit account is not sufficient to cover all claims, reimbursement will be prorated, based on the number of eligible individuals.
- 3 Reimbursement for fiscal year 2002.** Requires DPS to reimburse public employers who were denied reimbursement for FY 2002. Up to \$200,000 may come from the soft body armor reimbursement program and the remainder from other general fund appropriations.