

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Smith and others

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 the current system, 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.
- 3 Reimbursement for fiscal year 2002.** Requires DPS to reimburse public employers who were denied reimbursement for FY 2002 from any other general fund appropriation. This bill has a retroactive effective date: July 1, 2002.