



Act 51 of 2009

Amendment to Emergency & Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act

BILL SUMMARY:

- Amends Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act which provides state-paid lump-sum death benefits to survivors of emergency and law enforcement employees killed in the line of duty.
- Will now also pay survivor income benefits to spouses or dependent children of such employees.
- Persons covered for the survivor income benefits include paid firefighters, ambulance service or rescue squad members and law enforcement officers.
- Also amends Act 600 (*Municipal Police Pension Law*) by repealing the Killed-in-service survivor benefit (*previously made mandatory by Act 30 of 2002*).
- No effect on killed-in-service survivor benefits in other plans (*ex. Third Class City Code*).
- The amount of the new state surviving spouse benefit is 100 percent of the employee's monthly salary, offset by any workers' compensation or pension benefits received.
- The monthly benefit is increased annually for cost-of-living.
- Benefit is payable to the spouse for life; if there is no spouse, it's payable to dependent children until age 18, or 23 if attending college.
- Act 600 plan sponsors will need to address this in collective bargaining.
- The pension plan document will have to be amended.
- If KIS insurance was purchased, it should be cancelled (*after CBA is addressed and plan is amended*).
- Because of the WC offset, new state KIS benefit will likely be less than what was provided by the pension plan.