

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity;  
and Senators Geller and Smith

302-2298-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act prescribing death benefits for  
3           dependents and beneficiaries of a law  
4           enforcement, correctional, or correctional  
5           probation officer or firefighter; amending ss.  
6           112.19, 112.191, F.S.; increasing specified  
7           death benefits; providing for periodic  
8           adjustments to the amount of such benefits;  
9           providing for the state to waive specified  
10          vocational-technical, undergraduate, and  
11          postgraduate educational expenses for spouses  
12          and children at certain public educational  
13          institutions under specified circumstances;  
14          declaring the Legislature's intent that the act  
15          fulfills an important state interest; providing  
16          an effective date.

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18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20           Section 1. Section 112.19, Florida Statutes, is  
21          amended to read:  
22           112.19 Law enforcement, correctional, and correctional  
23          probation officers; death benefits.--  
24           (1) Whenever used in this section, the term:  
25           (a) "Employer" means a state board, commission,  
26          department, division, bureau, or agency, or a county,  
27          municipality, or other political subdivision of the state,  
28          which employs, appoints, or otherwise engages the services of  
29          law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation  
30          officers.

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1           (b) "Law enforcement, correctional, or correctional  
2 probation officer" means any officer as defined in s.  
3 943.10(14) or employee of the state or any political  
4 subdivision of the state, including any law enforcement  
5 officer, correctional officer, correctional probation officer,  
6 state attorney investigator, or public defender investigator,  
7 whose duties require such officer or employee to investigate,  
8 pursue, apprehend, arrest, transport, or maintain custody of  
9 persons who are charged with, suspected of committing, or  
10 convicted of a crime; and the term includes any member of a  
11 bomb disposal unit whose primary responsibility is the  
12 location, handling, and disposal of explosive devices. The  
13 term also includes any full-time officer or employee of the  
14 state or any political subdivision of the state, certified  
15 pursuant to chapter 943, whose duties require such officer to  
16 serve process or to attend terms of circuit or county court as  
17 bailiff.

18           (c) "Insurance" means insurance procured from a stock  
19 company or mutual company or association or exchange  
20 authorized to do business as an insurer in this state.

21           (d) "Fresh pursuit" means the pursuit of a person who  
22 has committed or is reasonably suspected of having committed a  
23 felony, misdemeanor, traffic infraction, or violation of a  
24 county or municipal ordinance. The term does not imply  
25 instant pursuit, but pursuit without unreasonable delay.

26           (2)(a) The sum of \$50,000, as adjusted pursuant to  
27 paragraph (j), ~~\$25,000~~ shall be paid as provided in this  
28 section when a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional  
29 probation officer, while engaged in the performance of the  
30 officer's law enforcement duties, is accidentally killed or  
31 receives accidental bodily injury which results in the loss of

1 the officer's life, provided that such killing is not the  
2 result of suicide and that such bodily injury is not  
3 intentionally self-inflicted. Notwithstanding any other  
4 provision of law, in no case shall the amount payable under  
5 this subsection be less than the actual amount stated therein.

6 (b) The sum of \$50,000, as adjusted pursuant to  
7 paragraph (j), ~~\$25,000~~ shall be paid as provided in this  
8 section if a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional  
9 probation officer is accidentally killed as specified in  
10 paragraph (a) and the accidental death occurs as a result of  
11 the officer's response to fresh pursuit or to the officer's  
12 response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency.  
13 This sum is in addition to any sum provided for in paragraph  
14 (a). Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in no case  
15 shall the amount payable under this subsection be less than  
16 the actual amount stated therein.

17 (c) If a law enforcement, correctional, or  
18 correctional probation officer, while engaged in the  
19 performance of the officer's law enforcement duties, is  
20 unlawfully and intentionally killed or dies as a result of  
21 such unlawful and intentional act, the sum of \$150,000, as  
22 adjusted pursuant to paragraph (j), ~~\$75,000~~ shall be paid as  
23 provided in this section. Notwithstanding any other provision  
24 of law, in no case shall the amount payable under this  
25 subsection be less than the actual amount stated therein.

26 (d) Such payments, pursuant to the provisions of  
27 paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), whether secured by insurance or  
28 not, shall be made to the beneficiary designated by such law  
29 enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer  
30 in writing, signed by the officer and delivered to the  
31 employer during the officer's lifetime. If no such

1 designation is made, then it shall be paid to the officer's  
2 surviving child or children and spouse in equal portions, and  
3 if there is no surviving child or spouse, then to the  
4 officer's parent or parents. If a beneficiary is not  
5 designated and there is no surviving child, spouse, or parent,  
6 then it shall be paid to the officer's estate.

7 (e) Such payments, pursuant to the provisions of  
8 paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), are in addition to any workers'  
9 compensation or pension benefits and are exempt from the  
10 claims and demands of creditors of such law enforcement,  
11 correctional, or correctional probation officer.

12 (f) If a full-time law enforcement, correctional, or  
13 correctional probation officer who is employed by a state  
14 agency is killed in the line of duty as a result of an act of  
15 violence inflicted by another person while the officer is  
16 engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties or as a  
17 result of an assault against the officer under riot  
18 conditions, the sum of \$1,000 shall be paid, as provided for  
19 in paragraph (d), toward the funeral and burial expenses of  
20 such officer. Such benefits are in addition to any other  
21 benefits which employee beneficiaries and dependents are  
22 entitled to under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation  
23 Law or any other state or federal statutes.

24 (g) Any political subdivision of the state that  
25 employs a full-time law enforcement officer as defined in s.  
26 943.10(1) or a full-time correctional officer as defined in s.  
27 943.10(2) who is killed in the line of duty on or after July  
28 1, 1993, as a result of an act of violence inflicted by  
29 another person while the officer is engaged in the performance  
30 of law enforcement duties or as a result of an assault against  
31 the officer under riot conditions shall pay the entire premium

1 of the political subdivision's health insurance plan for the  
2 employee's surviving spouse until remarried, and for each  
3 dependent child of the employee until the child reaches the  
4 age of majority or until the end of the calendar year in which  
5 the child reaches the age of 25 if:

6 1. At the time of the employee's death, the child is  
7 dependent upon the employee for support; and

8 2. The surviving child continues to be dependent for  
9 support, or the surviving child is a full-time or part-time  
10 student and is dependent for support.

11 (h)1. Any employer who employs a full-time law  
12 enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer  
13 who, on or after January 1, 1995, suffers a catastrophic  
14 injury, as defined in s. 440.02(37), in the line of duty shall  
15 pay the entire premium of the employer's health insurance plan  
16 for the injured employee, the injured employee's spouse, and  
17 for each dependent child of the injured employee until the  
18 child reaches the age of majority or until the end of the  
19 calendar year in which the child reaches the age of 25 if the  
20 child continues to be dependent for support, or the child is a  
21 full-time or part-time student and is dependent for support.  
22 The term "health insurance plan" does not include supplemental  
23 benefits that are not part of the basic group health insurance  
24 plan. If the injured employee subsequently dies, the employer  
25 shall continue to pay the entire health insurance premium for  
26 the surviving spouse until remarried, and for the dependent  
27 children, under the conditions outlined in this paragraph.

28 However:

29 a. Health insurance benefits payable from any other  
30 source shall reduce benefits payable under this section.

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1           b. It is unlawful for a person to willfully and  
2 knowingly make, or cause to be made, or to assist, conspire  
3 with, or urge another to make, or cause to be made, any false,  
4 fraudulent, or misleading oral or written statement to obtain  
5 health insurance coverage as provided under this paragraph. A  
6 person who violates this sub-subparagraph commits a  
7 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.  
8 775.082 or s. 775.083.

9           c. In addition to any applicable criminal penalty,  
10 upon conviction for a violation as described in  
11 sub-subparagraph b., a law enforcement, correctional, or  
12 correctional probation officer or other beneficiary who  
13 receives or seeks to receive health insurance benefits under  
14 this paragraph shall forfeit the right to receive such health  
15 insurance benefits, and shall reimburse the employer for all  
16 benefits paid due to the fraud or other prohibited activity.  
17 For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, "conviction" means a  
18 determination of guilt that is the result of a plea or trial,  
19 regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.

20           2. In order for the officer, spouse, and dependent  
21 children to be eligible for such insurance coverage, the  
22 injury must have occurred as the result of the officer's  
23 response to fresh pursuit, the officer's response to what is  
24 reasonably believed to be an emergency, or an unlawful act  
25 perpetrated by another. Except as otherwise provided herein,  
26 nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit health  
27 insurance coverage for which the officer, spouse, or dependent  
28 children may otherwise be eligible, except that a person who  
29 qualifies under this section shall not be eligible for the  
30 health insurance subsidy provided under chapter 121, chapter  
31 175, or chapter 185.

1 (i) The Bureau of Crime Prevention and Training within  
2 the Department of Legal Affairs shall adopt rules necessary to  
3 implement paragraphs (a), (b), and (c).

4 (j) Any payments made pursuant to paragraph (a),  
5 paragraph (b), or paragraph (c) shall consist of the statutory  
6 amount adjusted to reflect price level changes since the  
7 effective date of this act. The Bureau of Crime Prevention and  
8 Training shall by rule adjust the statutory amount based on  
9 the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by  
10 the United States Department of Labor. Adjustment shall be  
11 made July 1 of each year using the most recent month for which  
12 data are available at the time of the adjustment.

13 (3) If a law enforcement, correctional, or  
14 correctional probation officer is accidentally killed as  
15 specified in paragraph (2)(b) on or after June 22, 1990, or  
16 unlawfully and intentionally killed as specified in paragraph  
17 (2)(c) on or after July 1, 1980, the state shall waive certain  
18 educational expenses that the child or spouse ~~which children~~  
19 of the deceased officer incurs ~~incur~~ while obtaining a  
20 vocational-technical certificate, or an undergraduate  
21 education, or a postgraduate education. The amount waived by  
22 the state shall be an amount equal to the cost of tuition, and  
23 matriculation, and other statutorily authorized ~~registration~~  
24 fees for a total of 120 credit hours for a  
25 vocational-technical certificate or an undergraduate  
26 education. For a child or spouse pursuing a postgraduate  
27 degree, the amount waived must equal the cost of tuition,  
28 matriculation, and other statutorily authorized fees while the  
29 child or spouse continues to fulfill the postgraduate program  
30 requirements. The child or spouse may attend a state  
31 vocational-technical school, a state community college, or a

1 state university. The child or spouse may attend any or all  
2 of the institutions specified in this subsection, on either a  
3 full-time or part-time basis. The benefits provided to a child  
4 under this subsection shall continue ~~to the child~~ until the  
5 child's 25th birthday. The benefits provided to a spouse under  
6 this subsection must commence within 5 years after the death  
7 occurs, and entitlement thereto shall continue until the 10th  
8 anniversary of that death.

9 (a) Upon failure of any child or spouse benefited by  
10 the provisions of this subsection ~~section~~ to comply with the  
11 ordinary and minimum requirements of the institution attended,  
12 both as to discipline and scholarship, the benefits shall be  
13 withdrawn as to the child or spouse and no further moneys may  
14 be expended for the child's or spouse's benefits so long as  
15 such failure or delinquency continues.

16 (b) Only a student in good standing in his or her  
17 respective institution may receive the benefits thereof.

18 (c) A child or spouse receiving benefits under this  
19 subsection ~~section~~ must be enrolled according to the customary  
20 rules and requirements of the institution attended.

21 (4)(a) The employer of such law enforcement,  
22 correctional, or correctional probation officer is liable for  
23 the payment of the sums specified in this section and is  
24 deemed self-insured, unless it procures and maintains, or has  
25 already procured and maintained, insurance to secure such  
26 payments. Any such insurance may cover only the risks  
27 indicated in this section, in the amounts indicated in this  
28 section, or it may cover those risks and additional risks and  
29 may be in larger amounts. Any such insurance shall be placed  
30 by such employer only after public bid of such insurance

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1 coverage which coverage shall be awarded to the carrier making  
2 the lowest best bid.

3 (b) Payment of benefits to beneficiaries of state  
4 employees, or of the premiums to cover the risk, under the  
5 provisions of this section shall be paid from existing funds  
6 otherwise appropriated to the department employing the law  
7 enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officers.

8 (5) The Department of Education shall adopt rules and  
9 procedures as are necessary to implement the educational  
10 benefits provisions of this section.

11 (6) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to  
12 the contrary, the death benefits provided in paragraphs (2)(c)  
13 and (g) shall also be applicable and paid in cases where an  
14 officer received bodily injury prior to July 1, 1993, and  
15 subsequently died on or after July 1, 1993, as a result of  
16 such in-line-of-duty injury attributable to an unlawful and  
17 intentional act, or an act of violence inflicted by another,  
18 or an assault on the officer under riot conditions. Payment  
19 of such benefits shall be in accordance with provisions of  
20 this section. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to  
21 limit death benefits for which those individuals listed in  
22 paragraph (2)(d) may otherwise be eligible.

23 Section 2. Section 112.191, Florida Statutes, is  
24 amended to read:

25 112.191 Firefighters; death benefits.--

26 (1) Whenever used in this act:

27 (a) The term "employer" means a state board,  
28 commission, department, division, bureau or agency, or a  
29 county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the  
30 state.

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1 (b) The term "firefighter" means any full-time duly  
2 employed uniformed firefighter employed by an employer, whose  
3 primary duty is the prevention and extinguishing of fires, the  
4 protection of life and property therefrom, the enforcement of  
5 municipal, county, and state fire prevention codes, as well as  
6 the enforcement of any law pertaining to the prevention and  
7 control of fires, who is certified pursuant to s. 633.35, and  
8 who is a member of a duly constituted fire department of such  
9 employer or who is a volunteer firefighter.

10 (c) The term "insurance" means insurance procured from  
11 a stock company or mutual company or association or exchange  
12 authorized to do business as an insurer in this state.

13 (2)(a) The sum of \$50,000, as adjusted pursuant to  
14 paragraph (i), ~~\$25,000~~ shall be paid as ~~hereinafter~~ provided  
15 in this section when a firefighter, while engaged in the  
16 performance of his or her firefighter duties, is accidentally  
17 killed or receives accidental bodily injury which subsequently  
18 results in the loss of the firefighter's life, provided that  
19 such killing is not the result of suicide and that such bodily  
20 injury is not intentionally self-inflicted. Notwithstanding  
21 any other provision of law, in no case shall the amount  
22 payable under this subsection be less than the actual amount  
23 stated therein.

24 (b) The sum of \$50,000, as adjusted pursuant to  
25 paragraph (i), ~~\$25,000~~ shall be paid as ~~hereinafter~~ provided  
26 in this section if a firefighter is accidentally killed as  
27 specified in paragraph (a) and the accidental death occurs as  
28 a result of the firefighter's response to what is reasonably  
29 believed to be an emergency involving the protection of life  
30 or property. This sum shall be in addition to any sum  
31 provided for in paragraph (a). Notwithstanding any other

1 provision of law, in no case shall the amount payable under  
2 this subsection be less than the actual amount stated therein.

3 (c) If a firefighter, while engaged in the performance  
4 of his or her firefighter duties, is unlawfully and  
5 intentionally killed, dies as a result of a fire which has  
6 been determined to have been caused by an act of arson, or  
7 subsequently dies as a result of injuries sustained therefrom,  
8 the sum of \$150,000, as adjusted pursuant to paragraph (i),  
9 ~~\$75,000~~ shall be paid as hereinafter provided in this section.

10 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in no case shall  
11 the amount payable under this subsection be less than the  
12 actual amount stated therein.

13 (d) Such payments, pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b),  
14 and (c), whether secured by insurance or not, shall be made to  
15 the beneficiary designated by such firefighter in writing,  
16 signed by the firefighter and delivered to the employer during  
17 the firefighter's lifetime. If no such designation is made,  
18 then it shall be paid to the firefighter's surviving child or  
19 children and spouse in equal portions, and if there be no  
20 surviving child or spouse, then to the firefighter's parent or  
21 parents. If a beneficiary designation is not made and there  
22 is no surviving child, spouse, or parent, then it shall be  
23 paid to the firefighter's estate.

24 (e) Such payments, pursuant to the provisions of  
25 paragraphs (a), (b), and (c), shall be in addition to any  
26 workers' compensation or pension benefits and shall be exempt  
27 from the claims and demands of creditors of such firefighter.

28 (f) Any political subdivision of the state that  
29 employs a full-time firefighter who is killed in the line of  
30 duty on or after July 1, 1993, as a result of an act of  
31 violence inflicted by another person while the firefighter is

1 engaged in the performance of firefighter duties, as a result  
2 of a fire which has been determined to have been caused by an  
3 act of arson, or as a result of an assault against the  
4 firefighter under riot conditions shall pay the entire premium  
5 of the political subdivision's health insurance plan for the  
6 employee's surviving spouse until remarried, and for each  
7 dependent child of the employee until the child reaches the  
8 age of majority or until the end of the calendar year in which  
9 the child reaches the age of 25 if:

10 1. At the time of the employee's death, the child is  
11 dependent upon the employee for support; and

12 2. The surviving child continues to be dependent for  
13 support, or the surviving child is a full-time or part-time  
14 student and is dependent for support.

15 (g)1. Any employer who employs a full-time firefighter  
16 who, on or after January 1, 1995, suffers a catastrophic  
17 injury, as defined in s. 440.02(37), in the line of duty shall  
18 pay the entire premium of the employer's health insurance plan  
19 for the injured employee, the injured employee's spouse, and  
20 for each dependent child of the injured employee until the  
21 child reaches the age of majority or until the end of the  
22 calendar year in which the child reaches the age of 25 if the  
23 child continues to be dependent for support, or the child is a  
24 full-time or part-time student and is dependent for support.  
25 The term "health insurance plan" does not include supplemental  
26 benefits that are not part of the basic group health insurance  
27 plan. If the injured employee subsequently dies, the employer  
28 shall continue to pay the entire health insurance premium for  
29 the surviving spouse until remarried, and for the dependent  
30 children, under the conditions outlined in this paragraph.

31 However:

1           a. Health insurance benefits payable from any other  
2 source shall reduce benefits payable under this section.

3           b. It is unlawful for a person to willfully and  
4 knowingly make, or cause to be made, or to assist, conspire  
5 with, or urge another to make, or cause to be made, any false,  
6 fraudulent, or misleading oral or written statement to obtain  
7 health insurance coverage as provided under this paragraph. A  
8 person who violates this sub-subparagraph commits a  
9 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.  
10 775.082 or s. 775.083.

11           c. In addition to any applicable criminal penalty,  
12 upon conviction for a violation as described in  
13 sub-subparagraph b., a firefighter or other beneficiary who  
14 receives or seeks to receive health insurance benefits under  
15 this paragraph shall forfeit the right to receive such health  
16 insurance benefits, and shall reimburse the employer for all  
17 benefits paid due to the fraud or other prohibited activity.  
18 For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, "conviction" means a  
19 determination of guilt that is the result of a plea or trial,  
20 regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.

21           2. In order for the firefighter, spouse, and dependent  
22 children to be eligible for such insurance coverage, the  
23 injury must have occurred as the result of the firefighter's  
24 response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency  
25 involving the protection of life or property, or an unlawful  
26 act perpetrated by another. Except as otherwise provided  
27 herein, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit  
28 health insurance coverage for which the firefighter, spouse,  
29 or dependent children may otherwise be eligible, except that a  
30 person who qualifies for benefits under this section shall not  
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1 be eligible for the health insurance subsidy provided under  
2 chapter 121, chapter 175, or chapter 185.

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4 Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary,  
5 the death benefits provided in paragraphs (b), (c), and (f)  
6 shall also be applicable and paid in cases where a firefighter  
7 received bodily injury prior to July 1, 1993, and subsequently  
8 died on or after July 1, 1993, as a result of such  
9 in-line-of-duty injury.

10 (h) The Division of the State Fire Marshal within the  
11 Department of Insurance shall adopt ~~is directed to promulgate~~  
12 rules ~~as are~~ necessary to implement ~~the provisions of~~ this  
13 section.

14 (i) Any payments made pursuant to paragraph (a),  
15 paragraph (b), or paragraph (c) shall consist of the statutory  
16 amount adjusted to reflect price level changes since the  
17 effective date of the act. The Division of State Fire Marshal  
18 shall by rule adjust the statutory amount based on the  
19 Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the  
20 United States Department of Labor. Adjustment shall be made  
21 July 1 of each year using the most recent month for which data  
22 are available at the time of the adjustment.

23 (3) If a firefighter is accidentally killed as  
24 specified in paragraph (2)(b) on or after June 22, 1990, or  
25 unlawfully and intentionally killed as specified in paragraph  
26 (2)(c), on or after July 1, 1980, the state shall waive  
27 certain educational expenses that the child or spouse ~~which~~  
28 ~~children~~ of the deceased firefighter incurs ~~incur~~ while  
29 obtaining a vocational-technical certificate, ~~or an~~  
30 undergraduate education, or a postgraduate education. The  
31 amount waived by the state shall be an amount equal to the

1 cost of tuition,~~and~~ matriculation,and other statutorily  
2 authorized registration fees for a total of 120 credit hours  
3 for a vocational-technical certificate or an undergraduate  
4 education. For a child or spouse pursuing a postgraduate  
5 degree, the amount waived must equal the cost of tuition,  
6 matriculation, and other statutorily authorized fees while the  
7 child or spouse continues to fulfill the postgraduate program  
8 requirements.The child or spouse may attend a state  
9 vocational-technical school, a state community college, or a  
10 state university. The child or spouse may attend any or all  
11 of the institutions specified in this subsection, on either a  
12 full-time or part-time basis. The benefits provided to a child  
13 under this subsection shall continue ~~to such a child~~ until the  
14 child's 25th birthday. The benefits provided to a spouse under  
15 this subsection must commence within 5 years after the death  
16 occurs, and entitlement thereto shall continue until the 10th  
17 anniversary of that death.

18 (a) Upon failure of any child or spouse benefited by  
19 the provisions of this subsection ~~section~~ to comply with the  
20 ordinary and minimum requirements of the institution attended,  
21 both as to discipline and scholarship, the benefits thereof  
22 shall be withdrawn as to the child or spouse and no further  
23 moneys expended for the child's or spouse's benefits so long  
24 as such failure or delinquency continues.

25 (b) Only students in good standing in their respective  
26 institutions shall receive the benefits thereof.

27 (c) A child or spouse ~~All children~~ receiving benefits  
28 under this subsection must ~~section shall~~ be enrolled according  
29 to the customary rules and requirements of the institution  
30 attended.

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1           (4)(a) The employer of such firefighter shall be  
2 liable for the payment of said sums specified in this section  
3 and shall be deemed self-insured, unless it procures and  
4 maintains, or has already procured and maintained, insurance  
5 to secure such payments. Any such insurance may cover only the  
6 risks indicated in this section, in the amounts indicated in  
7 this section, or it may cover those risks and additional risks  
8 and may be in larger amounts. Any such insurance shall be  
9 placed by such employer only after public bid of such  
10 insurance coverage which coverage shall be awarded to the  
11 carrier making the lowest best bid.

12           (b) Payment of benefits to beneficiaries of state  
13 employees, or of the premiums to cover the risk, under the  
14 provisions of this section, shall be paid from existing funds  
15 otherwise appropriated for the department.

16           (5) The Department of Education is directed to  
17 promulgate rules and procedures as are necessary to implement  
18 the educational benefits provisions of this section.

19           Section 3. In accordance with Section 18, Article VII  
20 of the State Constitution, the Legislature finds and declares  
21 that this act fulfills an important state interest.

22           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.  
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SB 1208

Increases the bill's death benefits from \$36,000 to \$50,000, and from \$107,000 to \$150,000. Provides that the statutory death benefit amounts are the minimums to be paid, notwithstanding the bill's requirement that the amounts be annually adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index. Clarifies that up to 120 credit hours may be waived for undergraduate studies, and provides that postgraduate fee waivers are limited to the time in which the child or spouse is satisfying the program requirements for a postgraduate degree. Substitutes the term "statutorily authorized fees" for "registration fees." Technically clarifies the important state interest clause by citing the relevant constitutional provision.