

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: SB 507

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Specifies certain presumptions as to cause of death, disability or impairment of health of fire service professional, public safety personnel or employee of public or private safety agency with duties related to firefighting, police, ambulance or emergency medical services in claim for benefits related to occupational disease under workers' compensation law.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon State Police (OSP), Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), Cities, Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), District Attorneys and their Deputies (DAs), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC), Oregon Military Department (OMD)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

This bill provides that death, disability or impairment caused by mental or emotional trauma or a stress-related disorder that is generally recognized in the medical or psychological community and that results from job duties related to firefighting, police, ambulance, or emergency medical series is a compensable occupational disease regardless of public or private employment.

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) manages the Public Safety Memorial Fund (PSMF). ORS 243.954 defines a qualifying death or disability for PSMF purposes as "death or permanent total disability that is: (a) the result of an injury or occupational disease that is compensable under ORS chapter 656 or a disability program provided by a city having a population of more than 200,000 that provides comparable benefits by ordinance or charter." Upon finding that a death or disability qualifies, the PSMF Board is required to award a lump sum amount of \$25,000 from the Public Safety Memorial Fund Board. Other benefits and eligibility including but, not limited to, 12 months mortgage payments, medical and dental benefits, and college tuition assistance may also be awarded at the discretion of the PSMF Board.

Claims made pursuant to this bill may require award payments from the PSMF. The fiscal impact of this bill on DPSST as it relates to this fund is indeterminate.

Oregon State Police

Oregon State Police (OSP) employees may be eligible for workers compensation claims that were previously unavailable, if this bill passes. If OSP's workers compensation claims increase as a result of the changes in this bill, the OSP Department of Administrative Services Risk Management assessment could increase as well. The financial impact to OSP is indeterminate.

Cities and Counties

Cities and counties may see an increase in workers compensation claims, as well, which could in turn increase their workers compensation insurance costs. The fiscal impact to cities and counties is indeterminate.

Department of Consumer and Business Services and Oregon Judicial Department

The Department of Consumer and Business Services and the Oregon Judicial Department anticipate a minimal fiscal impact from this bill.

Oregon Military Department

There is no fiscal impact to the Oregon Military Department.