

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 507 - 8

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***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 government fire service professional, public safety personnel or employee of public 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:

Special Districts, Oregon State Police (OSP), Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), Cities, Counties, Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), 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 services is a compensable occupational disease for government employees under specified circumstances.

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 PSMF is funded by the Legislature each biennium using funds from the Criminal Fines Account. Should claims to the PSMF exceed available funds in the account, DPSST would need to request additional funds from the Legislature during a regularly scheduled Legislative session or from the Emergency Board.

The fiscal impact of this bill on DPSST as it relates to this fund is indeterminate.

Oregon State Police and the Oregon Military Department

Oregon State Police (OSP) and Oregon Military Department (OMD) employees may be eligible for workers compensation claims that were previously unavailable, if this bill passes. If workers compensation claims increase for these agencies as a result of the changes in this bill, the Department of Administrative Services Risk

Management assessment could increase as well. The financial impact to OSP and OMD is indeterminate, but likely minimal.

Cities, Counties and Special Districts

Cities, counties and rural fire protection districts may see an increase in workers compensation claims, which could in turn increase their workers compensation insurance costs. The fiscal impact to cities, counties and special districts is indeterminate, but likely minimal.

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.