

Legislative Analysis



POLICE OFFICER'S AND FIRE FIGHTER'S SURVIVOR TUITION PROGRAM REVISIONS

Mary Ann Cleary, Director
Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5873

Sponsor: Rep. Forlini

Committee: Appropriations

Complete to 9-11-12

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5873 AS INTRODUCED

The Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Survivor Tuition Act provides the waiver of tuition at state public institutions of higher education (universities and community colleges) for children and surviving spouses of Michigan police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty. Students must be the spouse or the natural or adopted child of a deceased officer or firefighter. Children must be under the age of 21 at the time of the death; and must also apply for the first time before the age of 21.

House Bill 5873 would amend the act to move administrative responsibility for the program from the Department of State Police to the Department of Treasury ("department" hereafter) and make a series of technical or clarifying revisions to the statute. Those revisions include:

- Replacing the term "waiver" with "grant" throughout the act and requiring the Department of Treasury to provide the grant, rather than requiring state institutions of higher education to waive tuition.
- Adding definitions for "academic year," "eligible student," and "survivor's tuition grant."
- Requiring state institutions of higher education to certify information regarding student financial needs and tuition rates (which may not exceed the institution's rate for resident students) to the department.
- Providing for the department to submit evidence, provided by an applicant that he or she is eligible for the program, to the Department of State Police for a determination of whether the Michigan police officer's or fire fighter's death was the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury incurred in the line of duty.
- Requiring the department to carry out various tasks related to the administration of the program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on state or local government. Administrative responsibility has already been shifted from the Department of State Police to the Department of Treasury, in conjunction with moving the appropriation for the program

from the State Police budget to the Higher Education budget in FY 2010-11. In that year, five eligible students received financial assistance through the program totaling \$38,811.¹

Fiscal Analyst: Kyle I. Jen

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/0,4636,7-128-60969_61016-274569--,00.html