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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6150

BILL NUMBER: SB 33

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 27, 2011

BILL AMENDED: Jan 27, 2011

SUBJECT: Sheriff's Department Survivor Benefits.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Bray

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill provides that, without regard to any maximum statutory compensation period, the surviving spouse of a county police officer or a county sheriff who was killed in the line of duty is entitled to receive worker's compensation benefits until the earlier of: (1) the surviving spouse's remarriage; (2) the date that the surviving spouse becomes eligible for a benefit, other than a disability benefit, from another tax-supported public employee retirement plan, including Social Security; or (3) the surviving spouse's death.

The bill makes conforming amendments and technical corrections.

Effective Date: (Amended) January 1, 2011 (retroactive).

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) The bill would increase the workers compensation death benefit expenses for county police officers or a county sheriff killed in the line of duty. The impact would depend on the number of county police and sheriffs that die in the line of duty and whose surviving spouse is receiving a workers compensation death benefit after June 30, 2010.

Currently, under the worker compensation law, when death results from an injury within 500 weeks of the injury, there is paid to the dependents 66 2/3% of the deceased person's average weekly wage for 500 weeks after the injury. The bill would increase the length of time the surviving spouse could receive the workers

compensation death benefit to be the earliest of the surviving spouse's (1) remarriage; (2) eligibility for a benefit from another tax-supported public employee retirement plan, including Social Security; or (3) death.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources:

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