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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 759
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Rogers and Hoops

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SUMMARY

- Creates the Volunteer Peace Officer and Firefighter Benefit Study Committee and specifies its membership.
- Requires the Committee to examine and make findings and recommendations related to the benefits paid to volunteer peace officers and firefighters and their dependents when the peace officer or firefighter is killed or disabled in the line of duty.
- Requires the Committee, not later than December 31, 2021, to publish a report of its findings and recommendations.
- Abolishes the Committee after it submits the report.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Volunteer Peace Officer and Firefighter Benefit Study Committee

The bill creates the Volunteer Peace Officer and Firefighter Benefit Study Committee. The Committee must examine and make findings and recommendations related to the benefits paid to volunteer peace officers and firefighters and their dependents when the peace officer or firefighter is killed or disabled in the line of duty (defined as death or disability occurring in the line of duty or arising from an injury sustained in the line of duty). These are peace officers and firefighters who are generally not members of a state retirement system or the Ohio Public Safety Officers Death Benefit Fund.

Not later than December 31, 2021, the Committee must publish a report of its findings and recommendations and submit it to the Director of the Legislative Service Commission (LSC), the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate and House minority leaders.

The report must contain findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on all of the following:

- The funding of benefits paid to volunteer peace officers and firefighters and their dependents;
- The amount and duration of benefits paid to volunteer peace officers and firefighters and their dependents;
- The disparities, if any, in benefits paid to volunteer peace officers and firefighters and their dependents when compared to career peace officers and firefighters and their dependents;
- The General Assembly's desirability appropriating money to fund benefits paid to volunteer peace officers and firefighters and their dependents;
- Any legislation that would increase the benefits paid to volunteer peace officers and firefighters and their dependents or improve the administration of the benefits.

Any General Assembly member may request a copy of the report from LSC.¹

Committee membership and administration

The Committee consists of the following nine members:

- Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker, two of whom must be members of the majority party and one of whom must be a member of the minority party;
- Three members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate President, two of whom must be members of the majority party and one of whom must be a member of the minority party;
- One member representing the Department of Commerce appointed by the Director of Commerce;
- One member representing the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund appointed by the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund Board of Trustees;
- One member representing the Public Employees Retirement System appointed by the Public Employees Retirement Board.

Vacancies are filled in the same manner as original appointments. In appointing the legislative members, the Speaker and the Senate President must give preference to the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and ranking members of the House and Senate standing committees that customarily consider legislation regarding finance. Members must be appointed as soon as practicable after the General Assembly has formed its standing committees.

¹ Section 1(A), (B), and (G), by reference to R.C. 101.68, not in the bill.

Seven members constitute a quorum. The members select a chairperson and a vice-chairperson. Members serve without compensation or reimbursement. LSC provides administrative and technical support for the Committee.

The Committee must hold its first meeting no more than 30 days after the legislative members have been appointed. The Committee is abolished after it submits its report.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-14-20

H0759-I-133/ks

² Section 1.