



# History of Line of Duty Act

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**Joint Subcommittee to Study the Virginia Retirement System and Benefits for Public Safety Officers Injured in the Line of Duty (HJR 34)**

November 29, 2004



# Virginia Line of Duty Act

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- Provides state-funded benefits for state and local public safety officers or their beneficiaries due to death or disability resulting from performance of duties
  - One-time death benefit payments to beneficiary
  - Health insurance coverage for spouse and dependent children (*disabilities occurring after July 1, 2000*)
  - Group Life Insurance (*VRS 4x salary*)
- Line of duty means any action authorized or obligated to perform by rule, regulation, condition of employment, or law

# State Funded Line of Duty Benefits

## Benefit

## Death

## Disability

\$75,000 Payment to Beneficiary

×

Additional \$25,000 Payment to Beneficiary *(if Within 5 Years of Retirement)*

×

Payment of Health Insurance for Officer

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Payment of Health Insurance for Surviving Spouse and Dependent Children

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# Employee Groups Eligible for Line of Duty Benefits

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- Employee groups eligible for line of duty benefits provided in Section 9.1-400 *Code of Virginia*
  - Approximately 20 categories of employees are established as eligible for benefits
- Some employee groups only eligible when certain conditions exist
  - For example, any Department of Emergency Management employee when duties are related to a major disaster or emergency

# Employee Groups Eligible for Line of Duty Benefits

- State & Local Police  
? Local Employees  
Performing Emergency  
HAZMAT Services
- Sheriff & Deputy  
Sheriff
- Fire Fighter (paid &  
volunteer)
- Virginia State Defense  
Force (official duty)
- Commissioned Forest  
Warden  
? Commissioned  
Conservation Officer
- Dept. of Emergency  
Management  
(HAZMAT Officer)
- Regional Jail  
Superintendent
- Rescue Squad  
Member
- ABC Special Agent
- Virginia Marine  
Resources  
Commission  
(authorized to arrest)
- State & Local  
Correctional Officer
- Jail Farm  
Superintendent
- Police Chaplain
- Virginia National  
Guard
- Regular/Special  
Game Warden  
? Regional HAZMAT  
Team Members

# Line of Duty Health Insurance Benefit

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- State-funded health insurance benefits due to line of duty death or disability effective July 2000
  - State employees remain in state health insurance program
  - State pays cost of local employees to retain benefits through local program
- State health plan premium (COVA Care) - 2004
  - Single: \$4,008/year
  - Family (3 or more): \$10,836/year
    - 2000 family plan premium: \$7,700



# Funding Line of Duty Program

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- Fiscal year 2001 appropriation for line of duty program was \$475,000
  - Fiscal year 2006 appropriation is \$3.1 million
    - Funds transferred from Economic Contingency in Central Appropriations as needed
- Increase in program funding reflects additional claims and increased cost of health insurance
- Providing health insurance coverage to individuals disabled between April 1972 and July 2000 estimated to cost an additional \$8 to \$13 million annually

# Line of Duty Health Care Claims & Expenses, FY 2001-2004

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b><u>Current Year</u></b>		<b><u>Previous Year</u></b>		<b><u>Total</u></b>	
	<i>Claims</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Claims</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Claims</i>	<i>Expenses</i>
2004	78	\$733,811	139	\$816,172	217	\$1,549,983
2003	80	\$525,639	59	\$253,533	139	\$816,172
2002	45	\$212,736	14	\$40,797	14	\$253,533
2001	14	\$40,797	--	--	14	\$40,797



# Other Benefits That Are Available

## Benefit

## Death

## Disability

Group Life Insurance Benefit  
(VRS 4x annual salary)

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Short/Long-Term Disability  
Pension Benefit

×

Retirement Death Pension  
Benefit

×

Tuition & Fee Waiver (Virginia Public  
Institution of Higher Education)

×

Federal Line of Duty Death  
Benefits

×

(\$275,658 for 2004 - indexed annually)

# Legislative Amendments to Line of Duty Act

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- 2003
  - ? Added all police chaplains
  - ? Added other Department of Emergency Management employees and local employees performing emergency HAZMAT services
- ? 2000
  - ? Increased death benefit from \$50,000 to \$75,000
  - ? Provided continued health insurance in cases of remarriage
- ? 1998
  - ? Health insurance first provided (effective date of July 1, 2000)
- ? 1996
  - ? Waiver of tuition and fees for dependents and spouses (except room and board)
- ? 1972
  - ? Program created covering 4 groups with a \$10,000 death benefit