

## **SB 284 Substitute (Wampler)**

## **(Line of Duty Act)**

The Line of Duty Act provides death benefits for public safety officers, including police, fire and rescue personnel killed in the line of duty. It also provides health insurance coverage (including families) for those who were disabled in the line of duty.

### **Key Provisions of SB 284 (Substitute)**

- 1) Provided a stable source of funding for the Line of Duty Act by establishing the Line of Duty Act Fund under the Virginia Retirement System.
  - Capitalized by an advance from the VRS group life insurance fund;
  - Shifted cost from the general fund to the Line of Duty Act Fund;
  - Rates would have been established by the VRS Board and charged to each employer of public safety personnel.
- 2) Clarified the definition of "disabled employee" under the Line of Duty Act to include any person who has become mentally or physically incapacitated on or after April 8, 1972, as a direct or proximate result of the performance of his duty.
- 3) Required that Line of Duty Act benefits stemming from injuries incurred prior to July 1, 2000, would be paid beginning July 1, 2000.

- 4) Required that Line of Duty Act benefits stemming from injuries incurred after July 1, 2000, would be retroactive to the first date of the disability.
  
- 5) Provided that health insurance would be the Local Choice Program offered by the Department of Human Resource Management.
  - Individuals may have opted to retain previous coverage, but they would have assumed any increased cost.
  
  - Funding of health benefits would have been on a pay-as-you go basis.
  
- 6) Set an effective date of January 1, 2005, to give VRS time to establish the program.

**Fiscal Impact of SB 284 (Substitute)**

The VRS fiscal impact statement projected the following costs for SB 284 (substitute):

	<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Local</u></b>
<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>\$1.2 million</b>	<b>\$7.0 million</b>
<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>\$1.1 million</b>	<b>\$6.6 million</b>

In addition to the ongoing costs cited above, VRS would have required a one-time appropriation of \$350,000 and 1.00 FTE position to administer the program.