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SENATE BILL

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

George K. Munoz

AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT; ENHANCING DEATH BENEFITS FOR PEACE OFFICERS, NEW MEXICO MOUNTED PATROL MEMBERS AND RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS; CHANGING DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION FUND.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 29-4A-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 59, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"29-4A-5. PEACE OFFICERS', NEW MEXICO MOUNTED PATROL MEMBERS' AND RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS' SURVIVORS SUPPLEMENTAL DEATH BENEFITS--REVIEW COMMITTEE--DETERMINATION--PAYMENT.--

A. There is created the "peace officers', New Mexico mounted patrol members' and reserve police officers' survivors supplemental death benefits review committee". The committee shall consist of the attorney general, the chief of

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1 the New Mexico state police and the state president of the  
2 fraternal order of police or their designees.

3 B. The peace officers', New Mexico mounted patrol  
4 members' and reserve police officers' survivors supplemental  
5 death benefits review committee shall determine whether a peace  
6 officer, New Mexico mounted patrol member or reserve police  
7 officer has been killed in the line of duty and advise the  
8 secretary of that determination. In addition to any other  
9 death benefits provided by law, the surviving spouse, children  
10 or parents shall be paid [~~two hundred fifty thousand dollars~~  
11 ~~(\$250,000)~~] one million dollars (\$1,000,000) as supplemental  
12 death benefits whenever a peace officer, New Mexico mounted  
13 patrol member or reserve police officer is killed in the line  
14 of duty. The benefits shall be paid from the fund.

15 C. The benefits shall be paid first to the  
16 surviving spouse. If there is no surviving spouse, the  
17 benefits shall be distributed in pro rata shares to all  
18 surviving children. If there are no surviving children or  
19 spouse, benefits shall be distributed to the surviving  
20 parents of the peace officer, New Mexico mounted patrol member  
21 or reserve police officer."

22 SECTION 2. Section 29-13-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983,  
23 Chapter 289, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

24 "29-13-3. DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN INSURANCE  
25 COLLECTIONS--LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION FUND CREATED.--There is  
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1 created in the state treasury the "law enforcement protection  
2 fund". Ten percent of all money received for fees, licenses  
3 and penalties from life, general casualty and title insurance  
4 business pursuant to the New Mexico Insurance Code shall be  
5 paid monthly to the state treasurer and credited to the fund.  
6 On or before June 30 of each year, the state treasurer shall  
7 transfer to the [~~general fund~~] peace officers', New Mexico  
8 mounted patrol members' and reserve police officers' survivors  
9 fund any balance in the law enforcement protection fund in  
10 excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) that is not  
11 obligated for expenses in that current fiscal year."

12 SECTION 3. Section 29-13-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,  
13 Chapter 179, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

14 "29-13-4. DETERMINATION OF NEEDS AND RATE OF  
15 DISTRIBUTION.--

16 A. Annually on or before April 15, the division  
17 shall consider and determine the relative needs as requested by  
18 tribal, municipal, school district and university police  
19 departments, county sheriff's departments, the department of  
20 public safety and the academy for money in the fund in the  
21 succeeding fiscal year pursuant to the provisions of  
22 Subsections C and E of this section.

23 B. As necessary during the year, the division shall  
24 transfer an amount from the fund to the peace officers', New  
25 Mexico mounted patrol members' and reserve police officers'

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1 survivors fund that enables the balance of the peace officers',  
2 New Mexico mounted patrol members' and reserve police officers'  
3 survivors fund to be maintained at a minimum balance of [~~three~~  
4 ~~hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000)] one million dollars  
5 (\$1,000,000).~~

6 C. The division shall determine the rate of  
7 distribution of money in the fund as follows:

8 (1) all municipal police, school district  
9 police and county sheriff's departments shall be entitled to a  
10 rate of distribution of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000);

11 (2) university police departments shall be  
12 entitled to a rate of distribution of [~~forty-five thousand~~  
13 ~~dollars (\$45,000)] ninety-five thousand dollars (\$95,000);~~

14 (3) the academy shall be entitled to a rate of  
15 distribution of twenty-four thousand five hundred dollars  
16 (\$24,500) to carry out the purposes of Section 29-7-7.7 NMSA  
17 1978;

18 (4) tribal police departments shall be  
19 entitled, unless allocations are adjusted pursuant to the  
20 provisions of Subsection D of this section, to [~~one thousand~~  
21 ~~dollars (\$1,000)] one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500)  
22 for each commissioned peace officer in the tribe. To be  
23 counted as a commissioned peace officer for the purposes of  
24 this paragraph, a commissioned peace officer shall have been  
25 assigned to duty and have worked in New Mexico for no fewer~~

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1 than two hundred days in the calendar year immediately prior to  
2 the date of payment. Payments shall be made for only those  
3 divisions of the tribal police departments that perform  
4 services in New Mexico. A tribal police department shall not  
5 be eligible for any disbursement under the fund if commissioned  
6 peace officers cite non-Indians into the tribal court for civil  
7 or criminal citations;

8 (5) municipal, school district and university  
9 police and county sheriff's departments shall be entitled,  
10 unless allocations are adjusted pursuant to the provisions of  
11 Subsection D of this section, to [~~one thousand dollars~~  
12 ~~(\$1,000)~~] one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for each  
13 police officer or sheriff's deputy employed full time by that  
14 department who has been certified by the academy, or by a  
15 regional law enforcement training facility in the state  
16 certified by the director of the academy, as a police officer  
17 or has been authorized to act as a New Mexico peace officer  
18 pursuant to the provisions of Section 29-1-11 NMSA 1978; and

19 (6) municipal police, sheriff's and school  
20 district police departments that assign officers as school  
21 resource officers shall be entitled to [~~one thousand dollars~~  
22 ~~(\$1,000)~~] one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) for each  
23 assigned school resource officer's training pursuant to Section  
24 [~~1 of this 2020 act~~] 29-7-14 NMSA 1978.

25 D. After distributions are determined in accordance

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1 with Subsection A, Subsection B and Paragraphs (1), (2), (3)  
2 and (6) of Subsection C of this section, if the balance in the  
3 fund is insufficient to permit the total allocations provided  
4 by Paragraphs (4) and (5) of Subsection C of this section, the  
5 division shall reduce that allocation to the maximum amount  
6 permitted by available money.

7 E. After all distributions have been made in  
8 accordance with Subsections A through D of this section, and if  
9 the balance in the fund is sufficient, the department of public  
10 safety shall be entitled to a rate of distribution of not more  
11 than two million dollars (\$2,000,000)."

12 SECTION 4. Section 29-13-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983,  
13 Chapter 289, Section 7, as amended by Laws 2020, Chapter 54,  
14 Section 1 and by Laws 2020, Chapter 67, Section 6) is amended  
15 to read:

16 "29-13-7. EXPENDITURE LIMITATION--CONTROL.--

17 A. Except as provided for the academy and the  
18 department of public safety in Subsections B and C of this  
19 section, amounts distributed from the fund shall be expended  
20 only for the following:

21 (1) the repair and purchase of law enforcement  
22 apparatus and equipment, including the financing and  
23 refinancing thereof, that meet minimum nationally recognized  
24 standards;

25 (2) the purchase of law enforcement equipment,

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1 including protective vests, for police dogs;

2 (3) expenses associated with advanced law  
3 enforcement planning and training;

4 (4) maintaining the balance of the peace  
5 officers', New Mexico mounted patrol members' and reserve  
6 police officers' survivors fund at a minimum amount of [~~three~~  
7 ~~hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000)] one million dollars  
8 (\$1,000,000);~~

9 (5) complying with match or contribution  
10 requirements for the receipt of federal funds relating to  
11 criminal justice programs;

12 (6) no more than fifty percent of the  
13 replacement salaries of municipal and county law enforcement  
14 personnel of municipalities or counties participating in basic  
15 law enforcement training;

16 (7) a law enforcement officer retention  
17 payment in the amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars  
18 (\$7,500); provided that:

19 (a) the distribution is requested by a  
20 municipality or county law enforcement agency that on January  
21 1, 2018 had a staffing vacancy rate of at least ten percent to  
22 retain a law enforcement officer who is certified in accordance  
23 with the Law Enforcement Training Act and has at least twenty  
24 years of actual service credit earned under a municipal police  
25 member coverage plan as determined by the public employees

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1 retirement association;

2 (b) the municipality or county law  
3 enforcement agency provides seven thousand five hundred dollars  
4 (\$7,500) in matching funds to the law enforcement officer; and

5 (c) the distribution and the matching  
6 funds paid to a law enforcement officer shall not constitute  
7 the officer's base salary or wages and shall not be considered  
8 to be salary or otherwise be used to determine a pension for  
9 the purposes of the Public Employees Retirement Act; and

10 (8) recruiting, providing bonuses for and  
11 training law enforcement officers engaged in community-oriented  
12 policing.

13 B. For the academy, amounts distributed from the  
14 fund shall be expended only for providing tourniquet and trauma  
15 kits and training on the use of tourniquet and trauma kits  
16 pursuant to Section 29-7-7.7 NMSA 1978.

17 C. The amount distributed to the department of  
18 public safety:

19 (1) shall:

20 (a) be used only to offset overtime-pay-  
21 related expenses incurred directly by the department of public  
22 safety from the special deployment of state police officers or  
23 other emergency assistance to counties or municipalities in  
24 response to critical circumstances as authorized by the  
25 governor; and

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(b) not be expended to hire new  
personnel; and

(2) may be expended for costs, including  
travel, fuel, overtime, per diem and ammunition.

D. Amounts distributed from the fund shall be  
expended only pursuant to approved budgets and upon duly  
executed vouchers approved as required by law."

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
provisions of this act is July 1, 2022.

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