

HCS HB 33 -- SURVIVOR BENEFITS (Walker)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness

This bill adds a uniformed employee of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and his or her child and spouse and specified emergency medical technicians and their children and spouses to the list of those eligible to receive a public safety officer or employee survivor grant from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education.

Currently, the estate of a deceased law enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, air ambulance pilot, air ambulance registered professional nurse, or firefighter can claim unpaid workers compensation and, if the Division of Workers' Compensation within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations determines the claimant is entitled to compensation under the Line of Duty Compensation Act, the funds are disbursed into the decedent's estate and the entire estate is divided according to the will. If there is no will, the estate is divided as specified in Section 474.010, RSMo. The bill requires the funds to be dispersed to the spouse or children as specified in the bill. The funds are only sent directly to the estate if there is not a surviving spouse or children.