

HB 426 -- LINE OF DUTY COMPENSATION ACT

SPONSOR: Cornejo

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11-0.

Currently, under the Line of Duty Compensation Act, the estate of the deceased files a claim for compensation with the Division of Workers' Compensation no later than one year from the date of the death of the law enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, air ambulance pilot, air ambulance registered professional nurse, or firefighter. This bill provides that the survivors of the deceased shall file the claim, rather than the estate of the deceased. The bill further establishes the hierarchy for distribution of compensation.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will make it easier for the survivors of first responders to obtain compensation. Under the current law survivors have to set up an estate in order to make a claim for compensation, which can be time consuming and costly.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cornejo; Missouri Fraternal Order of Police; St. Louis Police Officers Association; Greg Carrell, Missouri State Fire Marshal; Missouri State Council of Firefighters; and Fire Service Alliance.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.