
Senate Fiscal Agency
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SFA**BILL ANALYSIS**

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House Bill 4335 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Representative Randy Richardville
House Committee: Veterans Affairs
Senate Committee: Appropriations

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Military Act to increase the amount of the annual payment to the surviving spouse of a deceased National Guard or "defense force" member. The bill also provides that the spouse of a deceased retirant who was on active service at the time of death would qualify for a benefit.

Currently, the surviving spouse of a deceased National Guard member receives \$300 per year as long as the deceased member had completed 20 years of active service and met one of three criteria: honorable discharge, termination due to physical disability, or reaching the Federal age or length of service limits. The bill would increase the payment to \$500 per year and add a provision that would qualify a surviving spouse for a benefit if the member were on active duty at the time of death.

MCL 32.811

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would not have a fiscal impact on local resources.

The bill would increase State costs by an estimated \$42,000 annually. There were an estimated 212 surviving spouses of National Guard or defense force members who are eligible to receive the \$300 annual payment as of November 1, 1999. Thus, increasing the benefit for those 212 surviving spouses from \$300 to \$500 would increase the State's cost for those payments by \$42,000 annually. Although it is possible that the addition of active duty death to the eligibility requirements for the surviving spouse could result in more surviving spouses becoming eligible for this benefit, the number of such spouses is expected to be few; thus the exact fiscal impact is unknown.

Date Completed: 10-2-00

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