

Existing law provides for the creation of the Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen's Survivor Benefit Review Board within the Dept. of Justice, and its members, which consist of the attorney general, the legislative auditor, and the state risk manager or their named designees.

New law adds an active (POST) certified peace officer to be appointed by the governor as a member of the board.

Existing law requires the board to hear and decide by unanimous vote all claims for survivor benefits within 60 days after documentation is received and authorizes the board to request any information that may be necessary to make a determination of eligibility for survivor benefits.

Existing law provides for the financial security of surviving spouses and dependent children of law enforcement officers where such officers suffer death as a result of any injury arising out of and in the course of the performance of his official duties as such officer, or arising out of any activity, while on or off duty, in the protection of life or property.

Existing law provides that, in certain cases, the sum of \$250,000 shall be paid to certain surviving beneficiaries of each officer. Requires each officer to complete a beneficiary designation form. In addition, if the officer is survived by a dependent child or children, the sum shall be paid for each of the dependent children and shall be paid to the duly appointed and qualified tutor or the legal representative of the child or children.

New law provides that the surviving spouse or child of a law enforcement officer who is a commissioned law enforcement officer and who is POST certified at the time of his death shall be entitled to the payments provided for in existing law, if either of the following occur:

- (1) The officer was traveling to or from a public safety emergency or was responding to a request for law enforcement assistance regarding the health, safety, or welfare of the public.
- (2) The officer was traveling to or from his residence and his authorized work area while using a law enforcement vehicle provided by his employing agency.

New law provides for retroactive application to any death of a POST certified commissioned law enforcement officer who died on or after Jan. 1, 2011.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 25, 2012).

(Amends R.S. 33:1947(A); Adds R.S. 33:2201(F))