

SENATE BILL 22-036: STATE FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS COVERED BY THE DEATH & DISABILITY (D&D) PLAN

Proposal seeks \$33.2 Million to shore up State’s responsibility to fund D&D Plan benefits for public safety officers hired prior to January 1, 1997

Statewide Death & Disability Plan Overview

The Statewide Death & Disability Plan provides 24/7 coverage to Colorado first responders and their families in the event of serious injury or death. Plan Members are covered until they are eligible for Normal Retirement, retire or otherwise terminate employment.

Membership:



14,000+ First Responders

Departments:



250+ across Colorado

Coverage:



24/7 Coverage, on- and off-duty

Funded Status:



76.5% (as of 1/1/2021)

Plan History

January 1, 1997

State makes a one-time payment intended to cover their benefit obligations for Pre-97 Members

Before January 1, 1997: The State of Colorado is responsible for funding the D&D benefits for Members hired prior to January 1, 1997 (Pre-97s)

After January 1, 1997: For Members hired after January 1, 1997, the Plan is funded by Member and employer contributions

State funding not sufficient; Plan develops funding shortfall for Pre-97s

Funding Request: \$33.2 Million to Cover the State’s Responsibility for Members Hired Prior to January 1, 1997

The State of Colorado was responsible for funding the benefits for all Members hired prior to January 1, 1997 (sometimes referred to as Pre-97s). To cover the anticipated benefits for those Members, the State made a one-time payment based upon actuarial projections at the time of the payment.

But, the actual cost of benefits for those pre-97 Members was much greater than anticipated. To continue paying their benefits, FPPA has covered the funding shortfall using funds meant to pay benefits to Members hired after the State’s one-time payment.

The funding request in this legislation will help make up for that shortfall, and help the Plan regain fully funded status in a shorter period of time. Without an adequate cash infusion from the State to fulfill their obligation to the Pre-97s, the path toward full funding is longer and potentially problematic.

Stand by Colorado’s First Responders

The Statewide Death & Disability Plan, and its benefits, are deeply appreciated by the Members and their families, knowing they have a safety net should the unthinkable occur. Senate Bill 22-036 asks the legislature to fulfill its commitment to Colorado’s firefighters and police officers, ensuring that first responders are able to count on their death and disability benefits into the future.

Learn more about this proposal at ForwardWithFPPA.org