



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H. 5139	Introduced on February 10, 2026
Subject:	Honor Our First Responders Act	
Requestor:	House Ways and Means	
RFA Analyst(s):	Welsh	
Impact Date:	April 1, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill establishes the Honor Our First Responders Act. This bill requires continued coverage for a first responder's surviving spouse and dependent children by the State Health Plan for three years if the first responder's death was a direct and proximate result of performing official duties. The coverage must be provided without lapse or waiting period and under the same plan, subject to the same terms, and equivalent in scope to the plan in effect at the time of the first responder's death. This bill also allows a surviving spouse to elect to continue coverage upon the expiration of the three-year coverage period at the same premium rate applicable to nonactive participants in the State Health Plan who are former employees or eligible dependents.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA). The agency anticipates this bill will require coverage for the surviving dependents for about one PEBA health plan subscriber per year. This bill changes the current practice of extending one year of benefits to a member's surviving dependents to three years. PEBA anticipates this additional year of coverage will amount to a recurring annual expenditure of about \$1,912. PEBA anticipates managing provisions of this bill with existing appropriations. PEBA notes not all first responders employed by counties or municipalities have coverage through the State Health Plan and it is unclear what, if any, obligation would extend to those families for those fallen first responders in the State not covered by the State Health Plan.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 10, 2026

State Expenditure

This bill establishes the Honor Our First Responders Act. This bill requires continued coverage by the State Health Plan for three years for a first responder's surviving spouse and dependent children if the first responder's death was a direct and proximate result of performing official duties. The coverage must be provided without lapse or waiting period and under the same plan, subject to the same terms, and equivalent in scope to the plan in effect at the time of the first responder's death. This bill also allows a surviving spouse to elect to continue coverage upon the expiration of the three-year coverage period at the same premium rate applicable to nonactive participants in the State Health Plan who are former employees or eligible dependents.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on PEBA. The agency anticipates this bill will require coverage for the surviving dependents for about one PEBA health plan subscriber per year. This bill changes the current practice of extending one year of benefits to a member's surviving dependents to three years. PEBA anticipates this additional year of coverage will amount to a recurring annual expenditure of about \$1,912. PEBA anticipates managing provisions of this bill with existing appropriations. PEBA notes not all first responders employed by counties or municipalities have coverage through the State Health Plan and it is unclear what, if any, obligation would extend to those families for those fallen first responders in the State not covered by the State Health Plan.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director