1		H.695
2	Introduced by	Representatives Higley of Lowell, Anthony of Barre City,
3		Arsenault of Williston, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burditt of Wes
4		Rutland, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park,
5		Christie of Hartford, Clifford of Rutland City, Dolan of Essex
6		Junction, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Galfetti of Barre Town,
7		Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of
8		Chittenden, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City,
9		Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaBounty of
10		Lyndon, Maguire of Rutland City, Masland of Thetford,
11		Morgan of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of
12		Putney, Noyes of Wolcott, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newpor
13		City, Peterson of Clarendon, Roberts of Halifax, Sammis of
14		Castleton, Shaw of Pittsford, Sims of Craftsbury, Smith of
15		Derby, Stone of Burlington, Templeman of Brownington, and
16		Wilson of Lyndon
17	Referred to Co	ommittee on
18	Date:	
19	Subject: Public	c safety; law enforcement officers; survivors' benefits

1	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide the	
2	same monetary benefit currently available to survivors of firefighters and	
3	emergency personnel to survivors of law enforcement officers.	
4	An act relating to survivor benefits for law enforcement officers	
5	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:	
6	Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE	
7	This act may be cited as Jessica's Law.	
8	Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. chapter 181 is amended to read:	
9	CHAPTER 181. BENEFITS FOR THE SURVIVORS OF EMERGENCY	
10	PERSONNEL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS	
11	§ 3171. DEFINITIONS	
12	As used in this chapter:	
13	(1) "Board" means the Emergency Personnel and Law Enforcement	
14	Officers Survivors Benefit Review Board.	
15	* * *	
16	(4) "Line of duty" means:	
17	(A) answering or returning from With respect to emergency	
18	personnel:	

1	(i) service in answer to a call of the department or service for a
2	fire or emergency or training drill, including going to and returning from a fire
3	or emergency or participating in a fire or emergency training drill; or
4	(B)(ii) similar service in another town or district to which the
5	department or service has been called for firefighting or emergency purposes.
6	(B) With respect to law enforcement officers:
7	(i) service as a law enforcement officer in answer to a complaint
8	lodged with the department or in response to a disorder, including going to,
9	returning from, and investigating or responding to the complaint or disorder; or
10	(ii) service under orders from the department or in any emergency
11	for which the law enforcement officer serves as a law enforcement officer.
12	* * *
13	(7) "Survivor" means a spouse, child, or parent of emergency personnel
14	or a law enforcement officer.
15	(8) "Law enforcement officer" means a law enforcement officer who
16	has been certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council pursuant to section
17	2358 of this title.
18	§ 3172. EMERGENCY PERSONNEL <u>AND LAW ENFORCEMENT</u>
19	OFFICERS SURVIVORS BENEFIT REVIEW BOARD
20	(a)(1) There is created the Emergency Personnel and Law Enforcement
21	Officers Survivors Benefit Review Board, which shall consist of the State

Board to determine eligibility.

21

1	Treasurer or designee, the Attorney General or designee, the Chief Fire Service
2	Training Officer of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council or designee,
3	and the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council or
4	designee, one member of the public to represent the interests of emergency
5	personnel appointed by the Governor for a term of two years, and one member
6	of the public to represent the interests of law enforcement officers appointed
7	by the Governor for a term of two years.
8	(2) Survivors of emergency personnel, employed by or who volunteer
9	for the State of Vermont, a county or municipality of the State, or a nonprofit
10	entity that provides services in the State, the following individuals who die in
11	the line of duty or of an occupation-related illness may request the Board
12	award a monetary benefit under section 3173 of this title:
13	(A) emergency personnel, employed by or who volunteer for the
14	State of Vermont, a county or municipality of the State, or a nonprofit entity
15	that provides services in the State; and
16	(B) law enforcement officers.
17	(3) The Board shall be responsible for determining whether to award
18	monetary benefits under section 3173 of this title. A decision to award
19	monetary benefits shall be made by unanimous vote of the Board and shall be
20	made within 60 days after the receipt of all information necessary to enable the

(4) The Board may request any information necessary for the exercise of its duties under this section. Nothing in this section shall prevent the Board from initiating the investigation or determination of a claim before being requested by a survivor or employer of emergency personnel or a law enforcement officer.

(c) If the Board decides to award a monetary benefit, the benefit shall be paid to the surviving spouse or, if the emergency personnel <u>or law enforcement officer</u> had no spouse at the time of death, to the surviving child, or equally among surviving children. If the deceased emergency personnel <u>or law enforcement officer</u> is not survived by a spouse or child, the benefit shall be paid to a surviving parent, or equally between surviving parents. If the deceased emergency personnel <u>or law enforcement officer</u> is not survived by a spouse, children, or parents, the Board shall not award a monetary benefit under this chapter.

16 ***

(f) The Each member of the public appointed by the Governor shall be entitled to per diem compensation authorized under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for each day spent in the performance of his or her the member's duties.

1	§ 3173. MONETARY BENEFIT
2	(a) The survivors of emergency personnel or a law enforcement officer who
3	dies while in the line of duty or from an occupation-related illness may apply
4	for a payment of \$50,000.00 from the State.
5	* * *
6	§ 3175. EMERGENCY PERSONNEL <u>AND LAW ENFORCEMENT</u>
7	OFFICERS SURVIVORS BENEFIT SPECIAL FUND
8	(a) The Emergency Personnel and Law Enforcement Officers Survivors
9	Benefit Special Fund is established in the Office of the State Treasurer for the
10	purpose of the payment of claims distributed pursuant to this chapter. The
11	Fund shall comprise appropriations made by the General Assembly and
12	contributions or donations from any other source. All balances in the Fund at
13	the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward. Interest earned shall remain
14	in the Fund.
15	* * *
16	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
17	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.