

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1363, L.D. 1880, Bill, "An Act to Increase Death Benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'39 MRSA §59, as amended by PL 1971, c. 544, §135, is further amended to read:

§59. Burial expenses; incidental compensation

If the employee dies as a result of the injury, the employer shall pay, in addition to any compensation and medical benefits provided for in this Act, the reasonable expenses of burial, not to exceed \$1,000 ~~\$1,000~~ \$4,000 and ~~in addition thereto~~ an additional payment in the sum of \$1,000 ~~\$3,000~~ to the widow and if no widow, to the children and if no children to the next of kin as incidental compensation. Burial expense reimbursement must be paid to the person who has paid or who is responsible for paying the employee's burial expenses. The incidental compensation must be paid to the employee's estate.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill will increase workers' compensation costs to the State as an employer by up to \$5,000 per death claim. The cost increases will depend on the number, if any, of death claims for covered state employees. Therefore, the costs can not be determined at this time.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment completely redrafts the bill and increases the amount available for reimbursement of an employee's burial expenses from \$1,000 to \$4,000. This reimbursement is to be paid

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2 to the person who paid for the burial. The amendment also
increases the amount paid as incidental compensation for a
work-related death from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and provides that this
4 compensation is to be paid to the employee's estate.

Reported by the Committee on Labor
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House
2/13/90 (Filing No. H-786)