

SENATE BILL NO. 294

INTRODUCED BY B. USHER, L. SHELDON-GALLOWAY, B. MERCER, J. CARLSON, A. REGIER, E. BUTTREY, L. JONES, J. ESP, T. MANZELLA, J. FULLER, K. KELKER, J. GROSS, J. SMALL, E. BOLDMAN, W. SALES, S. HINEBAUCH, T. MCGILLVRAY, S. FITZPATRICK, P. FLOWERS, R. LYNCH, W. MCKAMEY, M. NOLAND, D. LENZ, D. BARTEL, G. HERTZ, C. FRIEDEL, J. WELBORN, B. GILLESPIE, C. GLIMM, J. ELLSWORTH, K. BOGNER, G. KMETZ, D. ZOLNIKOV, D. EMRICH, J. TREBAS, L. DEMING, T. VERMEIRE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MONTANA END OF WATCH TRUST AND PROVIDING RELATED SUPPORTS; CREATING A STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; CREATING AN OVERSIGHT BOARD THAT IS ATTACHED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS WHEN AN OFFICER IS CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED OR DIES; PROVIDING THAT A BENEFIT RECEIVED FROM THE TRUST IS NOT TAXABLE INCOME; PROVIDING FOR RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS FROM THE TRUST; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; SUPERSEDING THE UNFUNDED MANDATE LAWS; AMENDING SECTIONS 2-18-704, 15-30-2110, AND 15-30-2120, MCA; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

WHEREAS, Montana law enforcement officers are charged with the enforcement of the laws of the State of Montana as determined by the Montana State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers put their lives on the line each day to protect the people of Montana; and

WHEREAS, line of duty deaths and catastrophic injuries often leave behind dependent family members who are struggling to cope mentally, emotionally, and financially with the trauma of a line of duty death or to provide care to a catastrophically injured spouse; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana does not currently provide a line of duty death or catastrophic injury benefit to officers or their families when one of these tragedies occurs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Amendment - 1st Reading/2nd House-blue - Requested by: (H) Appropriations

- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: Julie Johnson, 406-444-4024

SB0294.002.006

COORDINATION SECTION. **Section 12. Coordination instruction.** If [this act] is passed and approved and it provides for an appropriation or a transfer of funds and if House Bill No. 569 is passed and approved and it does not require a member to attain at least 50 years of age in order to be eligible for a pension pursuant to 19-7-501, then the amount of the transfer of funds and the amount of the appropriations in [this act] are both reduced by half.

NEW SECTION. **Section 13. Retroactive applicability.** (1) [This act] applies retroactively, within the meaning of 1-2-109, to designated beneficiaries eligible for loss payments from the Montana end of watch trust pursuant to [section 2(3)] on or after July 1, 2013.

(2) Retroactive payments allowed in subsection (1) must be made for 5 years from July 1, 2023.

- END -