



# DOAA

Georgia Department  
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor

March 3, 2023

Honorable J. Collins  
Chairman, House Public Safety and Homeland Security  
218-B State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
House Bill 451 (LC 52 0275S)

Dear Chairman Collins:

This bill would provide supplemental insurance to eligible first responders, defined by the bill, diagnosed with occupational post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for a traumatic event occurring on or after July 1, 2023. Benefits include one \$10,000 lump sum benefit per lifetime and an income replacement disability benefit equal to 60 percent of monthly salary or \$5,000, whichever is less. Volunteer first responders who are not employed as a first responder by any public entity would receive a monthly benefit of \$1,500. The monthly benefit would be available to first responders whose covered condition precludes continuation of their regular occupational or volunteer duties, and benefits would end after a total of 36 monthly payments.

### *Premium Costs*

The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), which provide insurance benefits to local government employees, have obtained a quote from an insurance carrier to provide the benefits included in the bill. As shown in **Table 1**, premium costs would total \$144 annually per first responder. Assuming the state obtains the same premium quote to cover 11,674 first responders employed by the state,<sup>1</sup> annual coverage costs would total approximately \$1.7 million.

**Table 1: Annual Costs for First Responder for Insurance Coverage**

| Annual Premium Costs per First Responder |                    |       | Estimated First Responder Employed by State | Total State Annual Cost for Coverage |
|--|--------------------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Lump Sum Benefit                         | Income Replacement | Total |   |                                      |
| \$62                                     | \$82               | \$144 | 11,674                                      | \$1,681,056                          |

### *Administration*

The bill requires public entities to provide and maintain sufficient insurance coverage on each of its first responders to pay the benefits described in the bill. DOAS and OPB information show that first responders are employed by approximately 35 state entities. While the bill does not authorize DOAS

<sup>1</sup> The Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) and the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) provided the number of first responders employed by the state. DOAS provided a significantly higher number of first responders for a workers compensation bill last year (LC 36 4883). According to DOAS, the previous number provided was calculated based on a percentage of the total entity headcount, not the estimated actual first responder headcount provided above.

to obtain policies on behalf of the agencies, a single policy purchased on behalf of all state-employed first responders may reduce administrative costs.

Respectfully,



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State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/KF/jm