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HOUSE BILL 2414

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Stensen, Carlson, Keiser, Talcott, Santos, Quall, Haigh, Schual-Berke, Rockefeller, O'Brien, Edwards, Lantz, Ogden and Bush

Read first time 01/12/2000. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to death benefits for school employees; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 28A.400 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that schools are  
5 not always the havens of safety and learning that they ought to be. In  
6 recent years, serious violence has erupted at schools both in the state  
7 of Washington and across the nation.

8 (2) The legislature finds that school employees who entered the  
9 field of education did not choose the profession knowing their lives  
10 could be at risk by virtue of being on school grounds performing their  
11 normal duties.

12 (3) The legislature recognizes that all school employees, whether  
13 they are principals and other administrators, teachers, or classified  
14 employees, have had their lives threatened, have been in harm's way,  
15 and in some cases have been killed due to working with students who  
16 possess firearms and due to other dangerous circumstances and  
17 conditions.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.400  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) Any employee in the common school system of the state who is  
4    killed in the course of employment is entitled to have a death benefit  
5    paid to his or her estate if the biennial operating budget in effect at  
6    the time of the school employee's death provides for a death benefit to  
7    any classification or type of employee of the common school system of  
8    the state.    The amount of any such death benefit for the employees of  
9    the common schools shall be determined through the biennial operating  
10   budget.

11       (2) The death benefit shall be paid as a sundry claim to the former  
12   school employee's estate.    The determination of eligibility for the  
13   benefit shall be made consistent with Title 51 RCW by the department of  
14   labor and industries.    The department of labor and industries shall  
15   notify the director of the department of general administration if a  
16   deceased common school system employee's estate is determined to be  
17   eligible for payment under this section and in accordance with the  
18   state operating budget.

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