

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Cameron Lapine 271-2104

HB 150, making a technical correction and a clarification in the law governing death benefits for emergency medical technicians and rescue squad members.

Hearing Date: March 17, 2021

Time Opened: 10:00 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:06 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Reagan, Ricciardi, Cavanaugh and Prentiss

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill makes a technical correction in the law governing death benefits for emergency medical technicians and rescue squad members. This bill also clarifies the definition of "rescue squad member."

Sponsors:

Rep. Schuett

Rep. Goley

Rep. Soucy

Who supports the bill: Representative Dianne Schuett (Merrimack – District 20), Representative Tony Lekas (Hillsborough – District 37), and Representative Jeff Goley (Hillsborough – District 8).

Who opposes the bill: Robin Vogt.

Who is neutral on the bill: None.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Dianne Schuett

Merrimack – District 20

- Representative Schuett said that HB 150 is a re-file for HB 1377 (2020) from Representative Mark Proulx, who moved out of his district and could not run again. HB 1377 (2020) was included in an omnibus bill which was vetoed for other reasons.
- Rep. Schuett said that HB 150 makes a technical correction to a law from 2019. Line 7 of HB 150 ensure the language is consistent across the rest of the paragraph and Line 16 of HB 150 is a request from the Fish and Game Department.
- Speaking for a second time, Rep. Schuett said that there was a fear that a volunteer person, as a part of a search and rescue group, would not be covered. She said that the language regarding recovering a lost person was removed to ensure that a person who wasn't an official rescue personnel would be covered.

Representative Tony Lekas

Hillsborough – District 37

- Representative Lekas is a member of House Executive Departments and Administration and wrote the Committee Report for HB 150.
- Rep. Lekas said that the change in Section 1 of HB 150 is a technical correction. He said that the list of beneficiaries appears in statute nine times and the section in Section 1 of HB 150 is the only place “emergency medical technicians, or rescue squad member” was left out. He said it was a drafting error.
- Rep. Lekas said that the change in Section 2 of HB 150 removed the reference to recovering a lost person. He said that there was a concern over how that applies and if the benefit would apply if a rescue squad member was sent out not for the recovery of a missing person but some other reason. Rep. Lekas said that the rescue squad member had been called out and should be included in the benefit.
- Senator Carson asked to clarify Section 2; she said that what it does is create a definition concerning what a rescue squad member is. She said that the language will be removed because rescue squad members are called out for many reasons, not just to recover lost people.
 - Rep. Lekas said that that was his understanding, as rescue squad members take some risk in going out to perform their duties.
- Senator Carson asked if, even though the phrase “to recover a lost person” is being removed, rescue squad members would still be covered for the benefit if they were injured or killed while recovering a lost person.
 - Rep. Lekas said that that was correct and that rescue squad members were covered in the original statute.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 18, 2021