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**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chairman Longbine and members of the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

From: David Wiese, Assistant Revisor

Date: March 14, 2017

Subject: HB 2111; Death benefits for certain KP&F surviving spouses.

House Bill No. 2111 provides that upon the death from service-connected causes of a Kansas police and firemen's retirement system member prior to retirement, the member's spouse receives an annual spouse's benefit equal to the greater of:

1. 50% of the member's final average salary; or
2. The amount that would have been paid had the member elected the joint and survivor retirement benefit option and retired as of the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date of death.

The bill also provides that the benefits payable to the surviving spouse or to any children shall not exceed 90% of the member's final average salary instead of the current 75% limit.

For deaths from causes not service-connected of a member prior to retirement, the spouse continues to receive an annual death benefit not to exceed an amount equal to 50% of the member's final average salary.

The House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee amended the bill to apply the new spouse's benefit retroactive to July 1, 2016. The House passed the bill 124-0.