Reimbursable: No

Date of Hearing: June 2, 2020

## ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS Lorena Gonzalez, Chair AB 2967 (O'Donnell) – As Amended May 4, 2020

Policy Committee:	Public Employment and Retirement	Vote: 7 - 0

State Mandated Local Program: No

## SUMMARY:

Urgency: No

This bill reduces, from 10 business days to 7 calendar days, the time in which an employer of a deceased firefighter or peace officer must notify the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) of the employee's death and any updated contact information of the surviving spouse or family member.

## FISCAL EFFECT:

No additional state costs.

## COMMENTS:

**Background and purpose**. Under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act, when a firefighter or peace officer dies as a result of injury or disease arising out of the course of their official duties, the surviving spouse or family member is deemed an annuitant and is thus eligible to enroll in a health benefit of the survivor's choice. When a firefighter or peace officer dies, current law requires the employer to notify CalPERS within 10 business days and to provide relevant contact information of the surviving spouse or family member.

According to the author, this bill will reduce delay in enrolling a survivor into a health benefit plan following the death of their spouse. The author notes that when a firefighter passes in the line of duty, family members are often faced with questions about whether and how their health insurance will continue.

Analysis Prepared by: Luke Reidenbach / APPR. / (916) 319-2081