152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 64**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Ramone**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HEALTH CARE INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act is effective upon signature by the Governor.

2. Senate Bill 157 of the 146th General Assembly (78 Del. Laws. c. 254) eliminated the state share of health insurance for a spouse of a survivor of a deceased pensioner effective May 15, 2012. Remarried survivors receiving the state share of health insurance for their spouse prior to that date were able to continue to receive the state share for their spouse.

3. This Act authorizes coverage for the spouse of a survivor who qualified to receive a deceased pensioner's retirement benefits prior to May 15, 2012, regardless of when that spouse remarried.

4. The Office of State Pensions reports that as of June 30, 2022, there were 136 eligible survivors prior to May 15, 2012, that are currently married with no spouse enrolled in State healthcare. There are an additional 1,580 survivors who were an eligible survivor prior to May 15, 2012 and are currently not married.

5. For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that remarried survivors and their spouses would be eligible for Medicare and would be enrolled in the State's Medicfill program for those pensioners and survivors of a deceased pensioner aged 65 and over.

6. Yearly State share for a spouse based on the current Medicfill rates is $5,237/year. Healthcare costs are assumed to increase five percent per year.

7. It is assumed that half of those currently married eligibles would enroll their spouse. A 0.5% marriage rate, consistent with the overall annual marriage rate reported in the 2020 Delaware Vital Statistics Annual Report is assumed for all other eligible survivors who are currently not married.

8. In addition to the annual costs, this Act will increase the State's liability for Other Post-Employment Benefits by an indeterminable amount.

Cost:	**State Group Health Insurance Plan**
Fiscal Year 2024:	$397,118
Fiscal Year 2025:	$483,619
Fiscal Year 2026:	$555,216

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Office of the Controller General