



LEGISLATIVE OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Microsoft Teams August 16, 2023 9:00 a.m.

- I. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda
- II. Minutes to be Approved1. August 3, 2023 LOC Meeting Minutes (pg. 2)
- III. Current Business
- IV. New Submissions
- V. Additions

VI. Administrative Updates

- 1. E-Poll Results: Fiscal Impact Statement Request for the Oneida Life Insurance Plan Law (pg. 4)
- 2. Legislative Operating Committee 2020 2023 End of Term Report (HANDOUT)
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Recess/Adjourn



Oneida Nation Oneida Business Committee Legislative Operating Committee PO Box 365 • Oneida, WI 54155-0365 Oneida-nsn.gov



LEGISLATIVE OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Microsoft Teams August 3, 2023 2:00 p.m.

Present on Microsoft Teams: David P. Jordan, Daniel Guzman King, Jennifer Webster, Kirby Metoxen

Others Present on Microsoft Teams: Clorissa N. Leeman, Grace Elliott, Kristal Hill, Brooke Doxtator, Keith Doxtator, Michelle Braaten, Peggy Van Gheem, Eric Boulanger, Tina Jorgensen, Mark A. Powless, Mark W. Powless, Mary Graves, Kaylynn Gresham, James Poels, Lisa Moore, Jonas Hill, Jameson Wilson, Debra Powless

I. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

David P. Jordan called the August 3, 2023, Legislative Operating Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by Jennifer Webster to adopt the agenda; seconded by Daniel Guzman King. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Minutes to be Approved

1. July 18, 2023 LOC Meeting Minutes

Motion by Jennifer Webster to approve the July 18, 2023, LOC meeting minutes and forward to the Oneida Business Committee; seconded by Kirby Metoxen. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Current Business

1. Oneida Life Insurance Plan Law

Motion by Jennifer Webster to accept the public comments and public comment review memorandum and defer to a work meeting for further consideration; seconded by Kirby Metoxen. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. New Submissions
- V. Additions



VI. Administrative Items

1. Legislative Operating Committee Fiscal Year 2023 Third Quarter Report

Motion by Jennifer Webster to approve the LOC Fiscal Year 2023 Third Quarter Report and forward to the Oneida Business Committee; seconded by Daniel Guzman King. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by Jennifer Webster to adjourn at 2: 09 p.m.; seconded by Daniel Guzman King. Motion carried unanimously.

August 8, 2023 Legislative Operating Committee E-Poll Fiscal Impact Statement Request for the Oneida Life Insurance Plan

Law



Good Afternoon Legislative Operating Committee,

This e-mail serves as the e-poll for the approval of the fiscal impact statement request for the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The permanent adoption of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law (the "Law") is being sought to establish the Oneida Life Insurance Plan as an approved program of the Nation to provide a death benefit through the Oneida Life Insurance Plan (OLIPP) for all eligible enrolled Oneida Nation members, pursuant to the Oneida General Welfare law. [10 O.C. 1004.1-1]. The Law will:

- Establish the Oneida Life Insurance Plan as an approved program of the Nation in accordance with the Oneida General Welfare law. [10 O.C. 1004.4-1];
- Provide how this program qualifies for general welfare exclusion. [10 O.C. 1004.4-2];
- Provide that all members of the Nation shall qualify for benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan to be used for funeral expenses first, with any residual benefits distributed to a designated beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.5-1];
- Require that a member of the Nation complete the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee approved beneficiary designation form and submit it to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee, either online or in person at the Oneida Trust Enrollment Office, prior to their death in order to secure benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan for their beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2];
- Provide that funeral expenses shall be paid directly to the funeral home upon submission of a valid invoice, up to the limit of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits, even if a designated beneficiary has not been designated but the Oneida Life Insurance Plan residual benefits shall not be paid or claimed if the decedent did not designate a living beneficiary though the beneficiary designation form. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2(b), 1004.5-2(e)];
- Require that the Oneida Trust Enrollment Department be notified within one (1) year of the member of the Nation's death in order to distribute the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits to the beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.5-3];
- Provide that the Trust Enrollment Department is the department that has the responsibilities to oversee and administer the Oneida Life Insurance Plan. [10 O.C. 1004.5-4];
- Provide rules related to the determination of death and status. [10 O.C. 1004.6-1];
- Prohibit a designated beneficiary who criminally and intentionally causes the death of the decedent from being entitled to any benefits passing under this law. [10 O.C. 1004.6-2];
- Provide how the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits shall be distributed. [10 O.C. 1004.6-3];
- Provide that the Oneida Life Insurance Plan shall be contingent on funding through the Nation's annual budget. [10 O.C. 1004.7-1].

The Legislative Operating Committee held a public meeting for the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law virtually on Microsoft Teams on July 13, 2023. No one provide public comment during the public meeting. The public comment period was then held open until the close of business on July 20, 2023. One (1) submission of written comments was received during the public comment period. On August 3, 2023, the Legislative Operating Committee accepted, reviewed, and considered the public comments received. There are no revisions proposed to be made to the draft since the public meeting.

We are ready to move onto the next stage of the legislative process which is requesting a fiscal impact statement be developed. The Legislative Procedures Act requires that a fiscal impact statement be provided for all proposed legislation of the Nation. [1 O.C. 109.6-1]. The fiscal impact statement is an estimate of the total fiscal year financial effects associated with the proposed legislation, and should include:

- startup costs;
- personnel;
- office costs;
- documentation costs; and
- an estimate of the amount of time necessary for an individual or agency to comply with the law after implementation. [1 O.C. 109.3-1(c)].

The fiscal impact statement must be completed and submitted to the LOC prior to the proposed legislation being forwarded to the Oneida Business Committee for consideration. [1 O.C. 109.6-2]. The fiscal impact statement provides the Oneida Business Committee information on what the potential adoption of the proposed legislation will cost the Nation, so that the Oneida Business Committee can determine if adoption of the proposed legislation is in the best interest of the Nation.

The Legislative Procedures Act grants the LOC the authority to direct the Finance Department or any agency who may administer a program if the legislation is enacted or may have financial information concerning the subject matter of the legislation to submit a fiscal impact statement.

Oneida Business Committee resolution BC-IO-28-20-A titled, "Further Interpretation of 'Fiscal Impact Statement ' in the Legislative Procedures Act" provides further clarification on the process for directing a fiscal impact statement be completed. This resolution provides that upon final approval of draft legislation by the LOC, the LOC may direct the Finance Department to provide a neutral and unbiased fiscal impact statement to the LOC within ten (10) business days for inclusion in adoption materials.

So, now that we have a final draft of the proposed amendments to the law, the fiscal impact request memorandum is a memorandum from the LOC to the Finance Department directing that a fiscal impact statement of the proposed law be completed and provided to the LOC by August 18, 2023.

Attached to this e-poll please find the following materials:

- Updated Public Comment Review Memorandum with LOC Consideration;
- Oneida Life Insurance Plan law;
- Legislative Analysis; and
- Fiscal Impact Statement Request Memorandum.

The LOC is now being asked to approve by e-poll the updated public comment review memorandum, draft, updated legislative analysis, and fiscal impact statement request memorandum; and forward the appropriate materials to the Finance Administration and direct that a fiscal impact statement for the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law be provided to the LOC by August 18, 2023.

An e-poll is necessary for this matter because the next Legislative Operating Committee meeting is not until August 16, 2023, and the Legislative Operating Committee would have to have the adoption materials for this legislative item considered at the August 26, 2023, Oneida Business Committee meeting.

REQUESTED ACTION

- Approve the updated public comment review memorandum, draft, updated legislative analysis, and fiscal impact statement request memorandum; and
- Forward the appropriate materials to the Finance Administration and direct that a fiscal impact statement for the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law be provided to the LOC by August 18, 2023.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE

August 8 at 6:00 p.m.

All supporting documentation has been attached to this email for your convenience.



A good mind. A good heart. A strong fire.

E-POLL RESULTS:

Support

This e-poll was approved by David P. Jordan, Jennifer Webster, and Kirby Metoxen. Daniel Guzman King did not provide a response.

Re: E-POLL REQUEST: Fiscal Impact Statement Request for the Oneida Life Insurance Plan Law





RE: E-POLL REQUEST: Fiscal Impact Statement Request for the Oneida Life Insurance Plan Law





Sent from my Galaxy

Re: E-POLL REQUEST: Fiscal Impact Statement Request for the Oneida Life Insurance Plan Law

 Kirby W. Metoxen

 To
 Jennifer A. Webster;
 LOC;
 David P. Jordan;
 Daniel P. Guzman

 Cc
 & Kristal E. Hill;
 Phiannon R. Metoxen;
 Clorists N. Leeman

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Support

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Oneida Nation Oneida Business Committee Legislative Operating Committee PO Box 365 • Oneida, WI 54115-0365 Oneida-nsn.gov



TO:	Legislative Operating Committee (LOC)
FROM:	Clorissa N. Leeman, Legislative Reference Office, Senior Staff Attorney
DATE:	August 8, 2023
RE:	Oneida Life Insurance Plan Law: Public Comment Review

On July 13, 2023, a public meeting was held regarding the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law ("the Law"). The public comment period was then held open until July 20, 2023. The Legislative Operating Committee reviewed and considered the public comments on August 3, 2023.

Comment 1 – No Designated Beneficiary:

1004.4. Establishment

1004.4-1. *Establishment.* The Oneida Life Insurance Plan is hereby established as an approved program of the Nation in accordance with the Oneida General Welfare law. The purpose of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan is to provide fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) of financial assistance to eligible members of the Nation to pay for funeral expenses, with any residual benefit amounts paid thereafter to the designated beneficiary.

1004.5. Qualifications, Designation of Beneficiary, and Notice

1004.5-1. *Eligibility*. All members of the Nation shall qualify for benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan to be used for funeral expenses first, with any residual benefits distributed to a designated beneficiary.

(a) Newly enrolled members of the Nation shall be covered the date their enrollment application is approved by Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee and Oneida Business Committee.

(b) Members of the Nation that have relinquished their membership shall not be covered from the date their relinquishment request is approved by the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee and Oneida Business Committee.

1004.5-2. *Designation of Beneficiary*. A member of the Nation shall complete the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee approved beneficiary designation form and submit it to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee, either online or in person at the Oneida Trust Enrollment Office, prior to their death in order to secure benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan for their beneficiary.

(a) Any Oneida Life Insurance Plan beneficiary designation forms submitted prior to the effective date of this law shall remain valid.

(b) Oneida Life Insurance Plan residual benefits shall not be paid or claimed if the decedent did not designate a living beneficiary though the beneficiary designation form.

(c) A parent or legal guardian shall complete and submit a beneficiary designation form on behalf of their minor child or ward.

(d) Funeral expenses shall be paid directly to the funeral home upon submission of

a valid invoice, up to the limit of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits, even if a designated beneficiary has not been designated.

1004.6. Beneficiary Claim Process and Distribution

1004.6-3. *Distribution*. Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits shall be distributed in the following order:

(a) Funeral expenses shall be paid to the funeral home pursuant to receipt of a valid invoice therefrom;

(1) Any expenses beyond the funeral expenses shall be the responsibility of the beneficiary, family of the decedent, or any other responsible parties.

(b) Residual benefits shall be paid to the designated beneficiary.

Marena Bridges (written): I am writing to express my thoughts and concerns regarding the current Oneida Life Insurance Plan law, specifically in relation to the allocation of unassigned benefit funds following the policyholder's demise.

At present, in the event of a policyholder's passing, if no beneficiary has been explicitly named, the residual funds after memorial expenses are not allocated to the legal next of kin. Instead, these resources revert back to the Oneida Nation. This, in my view, poses a significant problem that needs to be addressed.

It is understandable that the responsibility of designating a beneficiary lies with the insured. However, it must be recognized that there could be numerous circumstances that prevent someone from fulfilling this task - a sudden and unexpected death, a lack of understanding about the importance of the beneficiary designation process, or perhaps a misunderstanding that next of kin would automatically be considered beneficiaries. Consequently, it seems unjust that the grieving next of kin, already dealing with the emotional trauma of their loss, should bear additional financial burden due to this policy. From both a humanitarian and community-centric perspective, it would seem more equitable for the legal next of kin to receive any leftover benefit monies in the absence of a named beneficiary. This would not only provide some much-needed financial relief during a difficult time but would also align with the community's values of support and solidarity.

In this context, I propose that the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law be revised to incorporate a clause to address this issue. Specifically, in cases where no beneficiary has been named, the residual benefit funds after covering memorial expenses should be awarded to the legal next of kin. This will ensure that the insured's resources remain within the family and community, providing aid where it is most needed.

I urge the Committee to consider this proposal for the benefit of our community members who may unexpectedly find themselves in such a situation. Providing clearer communication about the necessity of naming a beneficiary, and setting the legal next of kin as the default beneficiary in the absence of a named one, would undoubtedly alleviate some of the financial concerns experienced by grieving families.

I appreciate your time and consideration, and I trust in your commitment to the welfare of the Oneida community.



A good mind. A good heart. A strong fire.

Thank you.

Response

The commenter proposes that the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law be amended to allow for any residual benefits to be provided to the decedent's next of kin if a beneficiary is not designated.

The Oneida Life Insurance Plan law is very clear that the intent of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan is to provide fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) of financial assistance to eligible members of the Nation to pay for funeral expenses, with any residual benefit amounts paid thereafter to the designated beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.4-1, 1004.6-3]. A member of the Nation is required to complete the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee approved beneficiary designation form and submit it to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee, either online or in person at the Oneida Trust Enrollment Office, prior to their death in order to secure benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan for their beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2]. Any Oneida Life Insurance Plan beneficiary designation form that has already been submitted to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Department prior to the effective date of this law remains valid. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2(a)]. Oneida Life Insurance Plan residual benefits are not paid or claimed if the decedent did not designate a living beneficiary though the beneficiary designation form. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2(b)]. A parent or legal guardian is required to complete and submit a beneficiary designation form on behalf of their minor child or ward. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2(c)]. Funeral expenses are paid directly to the funeral home upon submission of a valid invoice, up to the limit of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits, even if a designated beneficiary has not been designated. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2(d)].

Previously, the Nation contracted with the company Epic to manage the Oneida Life Insurance Plan. Epic collected relevant information regarding the decedent and beneficiaries and distributed funds from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan. The contract between the Nation and Epic was terminated on September 30, 2022. The Oneida Trust and Enrollment Committee determined the Oneida Trust and Enrollment Department could manage the Oneida Life Insurance Plan in-house, yielding a cost savings to the Nation and expediting payments to the beneficiaries. It was determined that the Nation did not currently have the resources to track down and determine a decedent's next of kin if no beneficiary was designated, and therefore it should be the responsibility of the individual to ensure that they submit a beneficiary designation form.

The Legislative Operating Committee may consider whether the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law be amended to allow for any residual benefits to provided be to the decedent's next of kin if a beneficiary is not designated.

LOC Consideration

The Legislative Operating Committee held great discussion regarding the issue of whether the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law should be amended to allow for any residual benefits to be provided to the decedent's next of kin if a beneficiary is not designated. The Legislative Operating Committee understands the perspective the commenter expressed, and held great discussions on how to balance the Nation's resources in best managing the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law and the need for the responsibility to lie with the tribal member to ensure that the



designated beneficiary form is submitted if an individual desires that any residual benefits be provided to their selected individual, while also addressing concerns that some individuals may not be aware of the need to submit a beneficiary designation form.

On August 8, 2023, the Legislative Operating Committee held a work meeting with the Trust Enrollment Department and the Oneida Law Office to discuss this matter in greater detail. The Trust Enrollment Department informed the Legislative Operating Committee that the Trust Enrollment Department has made efforts to inform the community of the requirement to fill out a beneficiary designation form for the Oneida Life Insurance Plan through mailers sent to the homes of all members of the Nation, information provided at General Tribal Council meetings, information published in the Kalihwisaks, and information provided through Facebook Live segments. At this point in time about sixty-five percent (65%) of adult members of the Nation have submitted a beneficiary designation form. The Legislative Operating Committee discussed the desire and need for the Trust Enrollment Committee to continue its efforts to inform the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law. Efforts to specifically target individuals who have not submitted a beneficiary designation form were also greatly discussed.

Ultimately, the Legislative Operating Committee determined that the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law should remain as currently drafted so that a member of the Nation is required to complete the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee approved beneficiary designation form and submit it to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee, either online or in person at the Oneida Trust Enrollment Office, prior to their death in order to secure benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan for their beneficiary.



Title 10. General Welfare Exclusion - Chapter 1004 ONEIDA LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

1004.1. Purpose and Policy 1004.2. Adoption, Amendment, Repeal 1004.3. Definitions 1004.4. Establishment 1004.5. Qualifications, Designation of Beneficiary, and Notice1004.6. Beneficiary Claim Process and Distribution1004.7. Funding1004.8. Administrative Rulemaking

1 **1004.1.** Purpose and Policy

1004.1-1. *Purpose*. The purpose of this law is to provide a death benefit through the Oneida Life
Insurance Plan (OLIPP) for all eligible enrolled Oneida Nation members, pursuant to the Oneida
General Welfare law.

5 (a) The General Tribal Council, through resolution GTC-01-17-09-B, approved the 6 concept of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan Plus to replace the Oneida Burial Fund. The 7 General Tribal Council directed implementation of a benefit that pays fifteen thousand 8 dollars (\$15,000) to the designated beneficiary or beneficiaries of the deceased Oneida 9 Nation member. The payment of death benefits through OLIPP to designated beneficiaries 10 of a deceased Oneida Nation member is an exercise of self-governance crucial to the 11 Oneida Nation's sovereignty, and health and welfare of the community.

12 1004.1-2. *Policy*. It is the policy of the Nation to care for its members and their families even
13 after their death. The Nation seeks to internalize the Oneida Life Insurance Plan process to ensure
14 equitable and expedient distribution to designated beneficiaries.

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16 **1004.2.** Adoption, Amendment, Repeal

- 19 1004.2-2. This law may be amended or repealed by the Oneida Business Committee or the General
 20 Tribal Council pursuant to the procedures set out in the Legislative Procedures Act.
- 21 1004.2-3. Should a provision of this law or the application thereof to any person or circumstances
- 22 be held as invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this law which are considered
- 23 to have legal force without the invalid portions.
- 1004.2-4. In the event of a conflict between a provision of this law and a provision of another law,
 the provisions of this law shall control.
- 26 1004.2-5. This law is adopted under authority of the Constitution of the Oneida Nation.

28 **1004.3. Definitions**

- 1004.3-1. This section shall govern the definitions of words and phrases used within this law. All
 words not defined herein shall be used in their ordinary and everyday sense.
- (a) "Approved program" means any program(s) to provide general welfare assistance that
 is intended to qualify as a General Welfare Exclusion, administered under specific
 guidelines, and is adopted by the Oneida Business Committee through resolution or law of
 the Nation in accordance with the Oneida General Welfare law.
- (b) "Benefit" means the fifteen thousand dollars provided (\$15,000) to pay for funeral
 expenses of an enrolled member of the Nation, with any residual amounts paid thereafter
 to the designated beneficiary.
- 38 (c) "Decedent" means the deceased person.
- 39 (d) "Designated Beneficiary" means any person(s) designated by the enrolled member of
- 40 the Nation, through the approved beneficiary designation form, to receive all or a portion

41	of the decedent's Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefit.
42	(e) "Funeral Expenses" means the cost of the funeral of the decedent accrued and invoiced
43	by the funeral home including, but not limited to, the following:
44	(1) funeral planning;
45	(2) securing the necessary permits and copies of death certificates;
46	(3) preparing the notices;
47	(4) sheltering the remains;
48	(5) coordinating the arrangements with the cemetery, crematory or other third
49	parties;
50	(6) transporting the remains;
51	(7) embalming and other preparation;
52	(8) viewing, ceremony, or memorial services;
53	(9) use of a hearse or limousine;
54	(11) a casket, outer burial container or alternate container;
55	(11) monuments; and
56	(12) cremation or interment.
57	(f) "Nation" means the Oneida Nation.
58	
59	1004.4. Establishment
60	1004.4-1. Establishment. The Oneida Life Insurance Plan is hereby established as an approved
61	program of the Nation in accordance with the Oneida General Welfare law. The purpose of the
62	Oneida Life Insurance Plan is to provide fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) of financial assistance
63	to eligible members of the Nation to pay for funeral expenses, with any residual benefit amounts
64	paid thereafter to the designated beneficiary.
65	1004.4-2. General Welfare Exclusion. The Oneida Life Insurance Plan meets the requirements of
66	the General Test as defined in the Oneida General Welfare law; General Criteria as defined in
67	I.R.S. Rev. Proc. 2014-35. Section 5.01(1); and the requirements of the Tribal General Welfare
68	Exclusion Act of 2014, 26 U.S.C. §139E(b).
69	(a) The assistance provided through the Oneida Life Insurance Plan is:
70	(1) paid on behalf of the Nation;
71	(2) pursuant to an approved program of the Nation;
72	(3) does not discriminate in favor of members of the governing body of the Nation;
73	(4) available to any eligible member of the Nation who meets the guidelines of the
74	approved program;
75	(5) provided for the promotion of general welfare;
76	(6) not lavish or extravagant;
77	(7) not compensation for services; and
78	(8) not a per capita payment.
79	(b) . I.R.S. Rev. Proc. 2014-35, section 5.02(2)(e)(iv) lists funeral, burial, and expenses
80	related to a death as Safe Harbor program for which need is presumed.
81	
82	1004.5. Qualifications, Designation of Beneficiary, and Notice
83	1004.5-1. Eligibility. All members of the Nation shall qualify for benefits from the Oneida Life
84	Insurance Plan to be used for funeral expenses first, with any residual benefits distributed to a

85 designated beneficiary.

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- 86 (a) Newly enrolled members of the Nation shall be covered the date their enrollment
 87 application is approved by Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee and Oneida Business
 88 Committee.
- (b) Members of the Nation that have relinquished their membership shall not be covered
 from the date their relinquishment request is approved by the Oneida Trust Enrollment
 Committee and Oneida Business Committee.
- 92 1004.5-2. *Designation of Beneficiary*. A member of the Nation shall complete the Oneida Trust
 93 Enrollment Committee approved beneficiary designation form and submit it to the Oneida Trust
 94 Enrollment Committee, either online or in person at the Oneida Trust Enrollment Office, prior to
 95 their death in order to secure benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan for their beneficiary.
- (a) Any Oneida Life Insurance Plan beneficiary designation forms submitted prior to the effective date of this law shall remain valid.
- (b) Oneida Life Insurance Plan residual benefits shall not be paid or claimed if the decedent
 did not designate a living beneficiary though the beneficiary designation form.
- 100 (c) A parent or legal guardian shall complete and submit a beneficiary designation form
- 101 on behalf of their minor child or ward.
- 102 (d) Funeral expenses shall be paid directly to the funeral home upon submission of a valid
- invoice, up to the limit of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits, even if a designated
 beneficiary has not been designated.
- 105 1004.5-3. Notice of Death. The Oneida Trust Enrollment Department shall be notified within one
- 106 (1) year of the member of the Nation's death in order to distribute the Oneida Life Insurance Plan
- benefits to the beneficiary. Oneida Life Insurance Plan claims made beyond the first anniversaryof the decedent's death shall not be processed for distribution.
- 109 1004.5-4. *Oversight*. The Oneida Trust Enrollment Department shall be delegated the oversight110 and management of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan.
- 111

112 **1004.6. Beneficiary Claim Process and Distribution**

- 113 1004.6-1. *Evidence as to Passing or Status*. In proceedings under this law, the following rules
 114 relating to determination of death and status are applicable:
- (a) A certified or authenticated copy of a death certificate purporting to be issued by an
 official or agency of the place where the death purportedly occurred is prima facie proof
 of the fact, place, date and time of death, and the identity of the decedent;
- (b) A certified or authenticated copy of any record or report of a governmental agency,
 domestic or foreign, of a decedent's death; and
- 120 (c) A person who is absent for a continuous period of seven (7) years, during which they
- have not been heard from, and whose absence is not satisfactorily explained after diligent search or inquiry is presumed to be dead. Their death is presumed to have occurred at the end of the period unless there is sufficient evidence for determining that death occurred earlier.
- 125 1004.6-2. Effect of Homicide on Beneficiary Designation. A designated beneficiary who
- criminally and intentionally causes the death of the decedent shall not be entitled to any benefits passing under this law.
- 128 1004.6-3. *Distribution*. Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits shall be distributed in the following
- 129 order:

Draft 2

2023 08 08

- (a) Funeral expenses shall be paid to the funeral home pursuant to receipt of a valid invoice therefrom;
 (1) Any expenses beyond the funeral expenses shall be the responsibility of the
- 132 133

134

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- beneficiary, family of the decedent, or any other responsible parties.
- (b) Residual benefits shall be paid to the designated beneficiary.

136 **1004.7. Funding**

137 1004.7-1. *Funding Source*. The Oneida Life Insurance Plan shall be contingent on funding by the138 Nation's.

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140 **1004.8. Administrative Rulemaking**

141 1004.8-1. Delegation of Administrative Rulemaking Authority. The Oneida Trust Enrollment
 142 Department shall be delegated administrative rulemaking authority in accordance with the
 143 Administrative Rulemaking law to promulgate rules to govern the administration of the Oneida

144 Life Insurance Plan.

145 146 *End.*

148 149

Emergency Adopted – BC-09-28-22-C

150 Emergency Extension – BC-03-22-23-C

151 Adopted – BC-__-__



ADOPTION OF THE ONEIDA LIFE INSURANCE PLAN LAW LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Office			
Intent of the Proposed Law	• Establish the Oneida Life Insurance Plan as an approved program of the Nation in accordance with the Oneida General Welfare law. [10 O.C.		
	 1004.4-1]. Provide how this program qualifies for general welfare exclusion. [10 O.C. 1004.4-2]. 		
	 Provide that all members of the Nation shall qualify for benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan to be used for funeral expenses first, with any residual benefits distributed to a designated beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.5- 1]. 		
	• Require that a member of the Nation complete the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee approved beneficiary designation form and submit it to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee, either online or in person at the Oneida Trust Enrollment Office, prior to their death in order to secure residual benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan for their beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2].		
	Provide that funeral expenses shall be paid directly to the funeral home upon submission of a valid invoice, up to the limit of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits, even if a designated beneficiary has not been designated – but the Oneida Life Insurance Plan residual benefits shall not be paid or claimed if the decedent did not designate a living beneficiary though the beneficiary designation form. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2(b), 1004.5-2(d)].		
	 Require that the Oneida Trust Enrollment Department be notified within one (1) year of the member of the Nation's death in order to distribute the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits to the beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.5-3]. 		
	• Provide that the Trust Enrollment Department is the department that has the responsibilities to oversee and administer the Oneida Life Insurance Plan. [10 O.C. 1004.5-4].		
	 Provide rules related to the determination of death and status. [10 O.C. 1004.6-1]. 		
	 Prohibit a designated beneficiary who criminally and intentionally causes the death of the decedent from being entitled to any benefits passing under this law. [10 O.C. 1004.6-2]. 		
	 Provide how the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits shall be distributed. [10 O.C. 1004.6-3]. 		
	 Provide that the Oneida Life Insurance Plan shall be contingent on funding by the Nation. [10 O.C. 1004.7-1]. Delegate administrative rulemaking authority in accordance with the Administrative Rulemaking law to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee for the purpose of promulgating rules to govern the administration of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan. [10 O.C. 1004.8-1]. 		
	administration of the Orielda Eric Insurance Fran. [10 0.C. 1004.0-1].		

Purpose	To provide a death benefit of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) through the				
	Oneida Life Insurance Plan (OLIPP) for all eligible enrolled Oneida Nati				
	members, pursuant to the Oneida General Welfare law.[10 O.C. 1004.1-1].				
Affected Entities	Oneida Trust Enrollment Department.				
Public Meeting	A public meeting was held on July 13, 2023. The public comment period w				
	held open until July 20, 2023.				
Fiscal Impact	A fiscal impact statement has not yet been requested.				
Expiration of Emergency	Emergency adoption of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law expires on				
Legislation	September 28, 2023.				

1 SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT

- A. *Background*. The Oneida Life Insurance law will be a new law adopted by the Nation on for the purpose of providing a death benefit of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) through the Oneida Life Insurance Plan (OLIPP) for all eligible enrolled Oneida Nation members, pursuant to the Oneida General Welfare law. [10 O.C. 1004.1-1].
- 6 B. Emergency Adoption. On August 17, 2022, the Legislative Operating Committee received a request 7 from the Oneida Law Office and the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee for the adoption of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law on an emergency basis. The Nation provided the Oneida Life Insurance Plan 8 9 Plus, otherwise known as OLIPP, which consisted of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) of life insurance benefits directly payable to a tribal member's designated beneficiaries. The Nation contracted 10 with the company Epic to manage OLIPP. Epic collected relevant information regarding the decedent 11 12 and beneficiaries and distributed OLIPP funds. Epic planned to cease this service offering and terminate 13 its current contracts for this service, including with the Nation, on September 30, 2022. The Oneida Trust and Enrollment Committee determined the Oneida Trust and Enrollment Department could 14 15 manage OLIPP in-house, yielding a cost savings to the Nation and expediting payments to the beneficiaries. The proposed OLIPP law codified this benefit as an approved program under the Oneida 16 17 General Welfare law. The Oneida Trust and Enrollment Department requested this proposed law be 18 considered for emergency adoption since the Oneida Trust and Enrollment Department sought to commence the in-house management and oversight of OLIPP immediately after the Epic contract 19 20 terminated on September 30, 2022. A smooth transition would ensure uninterrupted service the tribal members participating in OLIPP and the beneficiaries that will emerge in the next fiscal year and 21 22 beyond. The Oneida Life Insurance Plan law (the "Law") was adopted by the Oneida Business 23 Committee on an emergency basis on September 28, 2022, through the adoption of resolution BC-09-24 28-22-C. The emergency adoption of this Law was set to expire on March 28, 2023. The Legislative 25 Operating Committee sought an extension of the emergency adoption of this Law. The Oneida Business 26 Committee extended the emergency adoption of this Law on March 22, 2023, through the adoption of 27 resolution BC-03-22-23-C. The emergency adoption of this law will expire on September 28, 2023.
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29 SECTION 3. CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH

- A. Representatives from the following departments or entities participated in the development of this Law
 and legislative analysis:
 - Oneida Law Office;
 - Oneida Trust Enrollment Department;
 - Oneida Business Committee; and

35	 Finance Administration.
36	B. The following laws were reviewed in the drafting of this analysis:
37	 Oneida General Welfare law; and
38	 Administrative Rulemaking Law.
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40	SECTION 4. PROCESS
41	A. The development of the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law complies with the process set forth
42	in the Legislative Procedures Act (LPA).
43	• On September 7, 2022, the Legislative Operating Committee added the Law to its Active Files List.
44	• On September 21, 2022, the Legislative Operating Committee conducted an e-poll entitled,
45	Emergency Adoption of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan Law. The requested action of this e-poll
46	was to approve the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law emergency adoption packet and forward to the
47	Oneida Business Committee for consideration. This e-poll was approved by Jennifer Webster,
48	Daniel Guzman King, David P. Jordan, Kirby Metoxen, and Marie Cornelius.
49	• On September 28, 2022, the Oneida Business Committee adopted the Oneida Life Insurance Plan
50	law on an emergency basis through the adoption of resolution BC-09-28-22-C.
51	• On October 5, 2022, the Legislative Operating Committee entered into the record the results of the
52	September 21, 2022, e-poll entitled, <i>Emergency Adoption of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan Law</i> .
53	• On March 15, 2023, the Legislative Operating Committee approved the emergency extension of
54	the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law packet and forwarded these materials to the Oneida Business
55	Committee for consideration. The Legislative Operating Committee also approved the draft of the
56	Oneida Life Insurance Plan law and directed that a legislative analysis be completed.
57	• On March 22, 2023, the Oneida Business Committee extended the emergency adoption of the
58 59	Oneida Life Insurance Plan law for an additional six (6) month period through the adoption of resolution BC-03-22-23-C.
59 60	 On May 17, 2023, the Legislative Operating Committee approved the updated draft of the Oneida
61	Life Insurance Plan law, legislative operating Committee approved the updated draft of the Oneida
62	Life Insurance Plan law to a public meeting to be held on July 13, 2023.
63	 On July 13, 2023, a public meeting for the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law was held on
64	Microsoft Teams. No oral comments were made during the public meeting.
65	 The public comment period was then held open until July 20, 2023. One (1) submission of written
66	comments was received during the public comment period.
67	• On August 3, 2023, the Legislative Operating Committee accepted the public comments and public
68	comment review memorandum and deferred this legislative item to a work meeting for further
69	consideration. That same day the Legislative Operating Committee held a work meeting to review
70	and consider the public comments.
71	B. At the time this legislative analysis was developed the following work meetings had been held
72	regarding the development of the amendments to this Law:
73	 August 25, 2022. LOC work meeting with the Oneida Law Office;
74	 September 21, 2022. LOC work meeting with the Oneida Law Office;
75	• September 27, 2022. LOC work meeting with the Oneida Law Office and Finance Administration;
76	 March 6, 2023. LOC work meeting with the Oneida Law Office, Finance Administration, and
77	Oneida Trust Enrollment Department;

- March 28, 2023. LOC work meeting with the Oneida Law Office, Finance Administration, Oneida
 Trust Enrollment Department, and Oneida Business Committee; and
- May 5, 2023. LRO work meeting with Oneida Trust Enrollment Department.
- August 3, 2023: LOC work meeting.
 - August 8, 2023: LOC work meeting with the Oneida Law Office and Oneida Trust Enrollment Department.
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85 SECTION 5. CONTENTS OF THE LEGISLATION

86 A. Purpose and Policy. The purpose of this law is to provide a death benefit through the Oneida Life Insurance Plan for all eligible enrolled Oneida Nation members, pursuant to the Oneida General 87 88 Welfare law. [10 O.C. 1004.1-1]. The General Tribal Council, through resolution GTC-01-17-09-B, approved the concept of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan Plus to replace the Oneida Burial Fund. The 89 90 General Tribal Council directed implementation of a benefit that pays fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to the designated beneficiary or beneficiaries of the deceased Oneida Nation member. The 91 92 payment of death benefits through OLIPP to designated beneficiaries of a deceased Oneida Nation member is an exercise of self-governance crucial to the Oneida Nation's sovereignty, and health and 93 94 welfare of the community. $[10 \ O.C. \ 1004.1-1(a)]$. It is the policy of the Nation to care for its members and their families even after their death. The Nation seeks to internalize the Oneida Life Insurance Plan 95 96 process to ensure equitable and expedient distribution to designated beneficiaries. [10 O.C. 1004.1-2].

- *Effect*. The overall purpose of this Law is to codify the Nation's sovereign right to provide assistance to members of the Nation on a non-taxable basis through an approved program.
- B. Establishment. This Law establishes the Oneida Life Insurance Plan as an approved program of the 99 Nation in accordance with the Oneida General Welfare law. [10 O.C. 1004.4-1]. The purpose of the 100 Oneida Life Insurance Plan is to provide fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) of financial assistance to 101 102 eligible members of the Nation to pay for funeral expenses, with any residual benefit amounts paid thereafter to the designated beneficiary. Id. Funeral expenses include funeral planning; securing the 103 104 necessary permits and copies of death certificates; preparing the notices; sheltering the remains; coordinating the arrangements with the cemetery, crematory or other third parties; transporting the 105 106 remains; embalming and other preparation; viewing, ceremony or memorial service; use of a hearse or limousine; a casket, outer burial container or alternate container; monuments; and cremation or 107 108 interment. [10 O.C. 1004.3-1(e)]. The Oneida Life Insurance Plan meets the requirements of the General Test as defined in the Oneida General Welfare law; General Criteria as defined in I.R.S. Rev. 109 Proc. 2014-35. Section 5.01(1); and the requirements of the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 110 2014, 26 U.S.C. §139E(b). [10 O.C. 1004.4-2]. 111
- C. *Eligibility.* The Law provides that all members of the Nation shall qualify for benefits from the Oneida
 Life Insurance Plan to be used for funeral expenses first, with any residual benefits then distributed to
 a designated beneficiary. *[10 O.C. 1004.5-1]*.
- D. Designation of Beneficiary. A member of the Nation is required to complete the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee approved beneficiary designation form and submit it to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Committee, either online or in person at the Oneida Trust Enrollment Office, prior to their death in order to secure benefits from the Oneida Life Insurance Plan for their beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2]. Any Oneida Life Insurance Plan beneficiary designation form that has already been submitted to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Department prior to the effective date of this law shall remain valid. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2(a)]. Oneida Life Insurance Plan residual benefits shall not be paid or claimed

if the decedent did not designate a living beneficiary though the beneficiary designation form. [10 O.C.

- 123 *1004.5-2(b)]*. A parent or legal guardian shall complete and submit a beneficiary designation form on
- behalf of their minor child or ward. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2(c)]. Funeral expenses shall be paid directly to
- the funeral home upon submission of a valid invoice, up to the limit of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan
 benefits, even if a designated beneficiary has not been designated. [10 O.C. 1004.5-2(d)].
- E. Notice of Death. The Oneida Trust Enrollment Department shall be notified within one (1) year of the member of the Nation's death in order to distribute the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits to the beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.5-3]. Oneida Life Insurance Plan claims made beyond the first anniversary of the decedent's death shall not be processed for distribution. Id.
- F. *Oversight*. The Trust Enrollment Department shall be delegated the oversight and management of the
 Oneida Life Insurance Plan. [10 O.C. 1004.5-4].
- G. Evidence as to Passing or Status. The Law provides the following rules relating to determination of 133 134 death and status are applicable: a certified or authenticated copy of a death certificate purporting to be issued by an official or agency of the place where the death purportedly occurred is prima facie proof 135 of the fact, place, date and time of death, and the identity of the decedent; a certified or authenticated 136 137 copy of any record or report of a governmental agency, domestic or foreign, of a decedent's death; and a person who is absent for a continuous period of seven (7) years, during which they have not been 138 139 heard from, and whose absence is not satisfactorily explained after diligent search or inquiry is presumed to be dead. Their death is presumed to have occurred at the end of the period unless there is 140 sufficient evidence for determining that death occurred earlier. [10 O.C. 1004.6-1]. 141
- H. *Effect of Homicide on Beneficiary Designation*. The Law provides that a designated beneficiary who
 criminally and intentionally causes the death of the decedent shall not be entitled to any benefits passing
 under this law. [10 O.C. 1004.6-2].
- I. *Distribution.* The Law provides that the Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefits shall be distributed in the following order: (1) Funeral expenses shall be paid to the funeral home pursuant to receipt of a valid invoice therefrom; then residual benefits shall be paid to the designated beneficiary. [10 O.C. 1004.6-3].
- J. *Funding*. The Oneida Life Insurance Plan shall be contingent on funding by the Nation. [10 O.C. 1004.7-1].
- K. Delegation of Rulemaking Authority. The Oneida Trust Enrollment Department is delegated administrative rulemaking authority in accordance with the Administrative Rulemaking law to promulgate rules to govern the administration of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan. [10 O.C. 1004.8-1].
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EXAMPLES

Example 1. John Doe is an enrolled member of the Nation who designated his wife Jane Doe as his beneficiary on the Oneida Nation Life Insurance Plan beneficiary designation form. John unfortunately passes away. The funeral of John Doe will cost \$12,000. Jane Doe can provide the Oneida Trust Enrollment Department the invoice from the funeral home, and the \$12,000 will be paid through the Oneida Life Insurance Plan directly to the funeral home. After the funeral is paid, there is \$3,000 remaining of the original \$15,000 Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefit. Since Jane is listed as John's beneficiary, the remaining \$3,000 of benefits will then be given to Jane Doe.

164 Example 2. John Doe is an enrolled member of the Nation who never found the time to fill out and submit
 165 the Oneida Nation Life Insurance Plan beneficiary designation form. John unfortunately passes away. The

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funeral of John Doe will cost \$12,000. Anyone can provide the Oneida Trust Enrollment Department the
invoice from the funeral home, and the \$12,000 will be paid through the Oneida Life Insurance Plan directly
to the funeral home. Since there is no beneficiary designated, the remaining \$3,000 of the original \$15,000
Oneida Life Insurance Plan benefit remains with the Nation.

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171 SECTION 6. EXISTING LEGISLATION

172 A. *Related Legislation*. The following laws of the Nation are related to this Law:

- Oneida General Welfare Law. The Oneida General Welfare Law governs how the Nation provides assistance to eligible members on a non-taxable basis, pursuant to the principles of the General Welfare Exclusion to Indian Tribal governmental programs that provide benefits to Tribal members. [10 O.C. 1001.1-1].
- The Oneida Life Insurance Plan is hereby established as an approved program of the Nation in accordance with the Oneida General Welfare Law. [10 O.C. 1003.4-1]. The Oneida Life Insurance Plan meets the requirements of the General Test as defined in the Oneida General Welfare Law. [10 O.C. 1003.4-2].
- *Administrative Rulemaking Law.* The Administrative Rulemaking law provides an efficient, effective, and democratic process for enacting and revising administrative rules, to ensure that authorized agencies act in a responsible and consistent manner when enacting and revising administrative rules. [1 O.C. 106.1-2].
 - The Oneida Life Insurance Plan law delegates rulemaking authority to the Oneida Trust Enrollment Department to promulgate rules to govern the administration of the Oneida Life Insurance Plan. [10 O.C. 1004.8-1].
 - Any rules promulgated by the Oneida Trust Enrollment Department must be done in accordance with the process and procedures of the Administrative Rulemaking law.

191 SECTION 7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- A. *Deadline for Permanent Adoption of Legislation*. The emergency adoption of this Law will expire on
 September 28, 2023.
- *Conclusion:* The Legislative Operating Committee will need to consider the development and adoption of this Law on a permanent basis within the next four (4) months.
- B. *Fiscal Impact*. Under the Legislative Procedures Act, a fiscal impact statement is required for all legislation except emergency legislation. [1 O.C. 109.6-1]. Oneida Business Committee resolution BC-10-28-20-A, *Further Interpretation of 'Fiscal Impact Statement' in the Legislative Procedures Act*, provides further clarification on who the Legislative Operating Committee may direct complete a fiscal impact statement at various stages of the legislative process, as well as timeframes for completing the fiscal impact statement.
- Conclusion. The Legislative Operating Committee has not yet directed that a fiscal impact statement be completed.
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Oneida Nation Oneida Business Committee Legislative Operating Committee PO Box 365 • Oneida, WI 54155-0365 Oneida.nsn.gov



TO:	Keith Doxtator, Chief Financial Officer	
	Ralinda Ninham-Lamberies, Assistant Chief Financial Officer	
FROM:	David P. Jordan, Legislative Operating Committee Chairman 🛒	
DATE:	August 8, 2023	
RE:	Oneida Life Insurance Plan Law Fiscal Impact Statement	

The Legislative Operating Committee (LOC) is currently developing the Oneida Life Insurance Plan law. The Legislative Procedures Act requires that a fiscal impact statement be provided for all proposed legislation of the Nation. [1 O.C. 109.6-1]. The fiscal impact statement is an estimate of the total fiscal year financial effects associated with the proposed legislation, and should include:

- startup costs;
- personnel;
- office costs;
- documentation costs; and
- an estimate of the amount of time necessary for an individual or agency to comply with the law after implementation. [1 O.C. 109.3-1(c)].

The fiscal impact statement must be completed and submitted to the LOC prior to the proposed legislation being forwarded to the Oneida Business Committee for consideration. [1 O.C. 109.6-2]. The fiscal impact statement provides the Oneida Business Committee information on what the potential adoption of the proposed legislation will cost the Nation, so that the Oneida Business Committee can determine if adoption of the proposed legislation is in the best interest of the Nation.

The Legislative Procedures Act grants the LOC the authority to direct the Finance Department or any agency who may administer a program if the legislation is enacted or may have financial information concerning the subject matter of the legislation to submit a fiscal impact statement. [1 O.C. 109.6-1].

Oneida Business Committee resolution BC-10-28-20-A titled, "Further Interpretation of 'Fiscal Impact Statement' in the Legislative Procedures Act" provides further clarification on the process for directing a fiscal impact statement be completed. This resolution provides that upon final approval of draft legislation by the LOC, the LOC may direct the Finance Department to provide a neutral and unbiased fiscal impact statement to the LOC within ten (10) business days for inclusion in adoption materials.

On August 8, 2023, the Legislative Operating Committee approved the final draft of the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law. Therefore, the LOC is directing the Finance Department to provide a fiscal impact statement on the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law by August 18, 2023.

A copy of the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law, as well as the legislative analysis, have been attached to this memorandum for your convenience.

Requested Action

Provide the LOC a fiscal impact statement of the proposed Oneida Life Insurance Plan law by August 18, 2023.



August 2023

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August 2023	September 2023		
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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Jul 31	Aug 1	2	3 1:30pm LOC Prep (Microsoft Teams Meeting) - Clorissa N. Leeman 2:00pm Legislative Operating Committee Meeting (Microsoft Teams Meeting;	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16 8:30am LOC Prep (Microsoft Teams Meeting; BC_Conf_Room) - 9:00am Legislative Operating Committee Meeting (Microsoft Teams Meeting;	17	18
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28 LOC	29	30	31	Sep 1 8/11/2023 3:05 PM