

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 248

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE MALONEY

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1 Amend Bill, page 1, by inserting between lines 15 and 16

2 15. First Responders Recognition

3 Amend Bill, page 6, by inserting between lines 16 and 17

4 CHAPTER 15

5 FIRST RESPONDERS RECOGNITION

6 Sec.

7 1501. Definitions (Reserved).

8 1502. First Responders Day.

9 § 1501. Definitions (Reserved).

10 § 1502. First Responders Day.

11 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General
12 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

13 (1) Our first responders, who are police, fire,
14 emergency medical service (EMS) and public health personnel,
15 work selflessly on behalf of the people of this Commonwealth,
16 regardless of the risk or hazard, and truly are citizens
17 serving the community.

18 (2) Most Pennsylvanians have benefited in some way from
19 the courageous service of first responders across this
20 Commonwealth.

21 (3) First responders carry out the critical role of
22 protecting and ensuring public safety in emergency
23 situations.

24 (4) The men and women who bravely serve as first
25 responders have found themselves on the front lines of
26 homeland defense in the war against terrorism.

27 (5) First responders are called upon in the event of
28 natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding
29 and pandemics.

30 (6) More than 100,000 first responders perform these
31 crucial services in this Commonwealth.

32 (7) Approximately 30,000 sworn police officers from
33 State, city and county law enforcement agencies protect lives
34 and property, detect and prevent crimes, uphold the law and
35 ensure justice.

36 (8) Tens of thousands of firefighters, including
37 approximately 50,000 volunteers and 10,000 career

1 firefighters, provide fire suppression, EMS, search and
2 rescue, hazardous materials response, terrorism response and
3 critical fire prevention and safety education.

4 (9) Approximately 60,000 emergency services
5 professionals in this Commonwealth respond to and treat a
6 variety of life-threatening emergencies, from cardiac and
7 respiratory arrest to traumatic injuries.

8 (10) First responders make personal sacrifices to
9 protect our communities, as witnessed in the aftermath of the
10 terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and of the natural
11 destruction caused by Hurricanes Katrina, Irene and Sandy.
12 They are called every day to protect individuals and property
13 in cities and towns across this Commonwealth.

14 (11) Many law enforcement officers die in the line of
15 duty in the United States each year, including nine killed in
16 2020 in Pennsylvania alone.

17 (12) More than 100 firefighters are killed in the line
18 of duty across the United States each year and thousands more
19 are injured.

20 (13) EMS answers more than 20 million patient calls
21 every year, and many medics are injured on the job, have been
22 assaulted by patients or have been exposed to infectious
23 diseases.

24 (14) EMS personnel in the United States have a fatality
25 rate of more than twice the national average for all other
26 workers.

27 (15) Thousands of first responders have made the
28 ultimate sacrifice.

29 (16) These men and women, by their dedicated
30 professionalism, have earned our gratitude and respect.

31 (b) First Responders Day.--The following apply:

32 (1) September 27 of each year is designated as "First
33 Responders Day."

34 (2) The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation
35 calling upon all public schools and educational institutions
36 to observe "First Responders Day" and to conduct exercises
37 recognizing the contributions and remembering the sacrifices
38 that first responders have made.

39 (3) "First Responders Day" may not be a paid holiday or
40 a day that school districts close.