AN ACT

Amending the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424, No.101), entitled "An act providing for the payment of death benefits to the surviving spouse or children or parents of firefighters, ambulance service or rescue squad members, law enforcement officers or National Guard members who die as a result of the performance of their duties," further providing for death benefits relating to COVID-19 and for definitions.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 1 of the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424, No.101), referred to as the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, is amended by adding a subsection to read:

(h) If a law enforcement officer, ambulance service or rescue squad member, firefighter, certified hazardous material response team member, member of the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol or National Guard member dies from COVID-19 on or after March 6, 2020, it shall be presumed that the individual contracted COVID-19 while acting in the performance of his
duties for the purposes of this act.

Section 2. Section 2 of the act is amended by adding a definition to read:

Section 2. The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

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"COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus as identified in the Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020).

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Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.