

FOREST FIRES, COMPENSATING PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED
Act of Apr. 11, 1925, P.L. 232, No. 153
AN ACT

Cl. 32

Making an appropriation; and providing for the hearing, adjusting, and paying of moral claims against the Commonwealth for injury to, or death of, persons while fighting forest fires under orders of agents of the Department of Forests and Waters.

Compiler's Note: Section 302(h) of Act 18 of 1995, which created the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and renamed the Department of Environmental Resources as the Department of Environmental Protection, provided that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall exercise the powers and duties conferred upon the Department of Forests and Waters and the Secretary of Forests and Waters by Act 153 of 1925.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000) is hereby specifically appropriated to the Department of Forests and Waters for the purposes of reimbursing parents or dependent relatives of persons killed or persons themselves seriously injured while in the service of the Commonwealth in fighting forest fires under orders from any forest fire warden or other agent of the Department of Forests and Waters, and who are unable to secure, or barred by operation of law from securing, compensation under the workmen's compensation laws.

Section 2. Any such parent or dependent relative of any person heretofore, or hereafter killed, or any such person heretofore or hereafter seriously injured while fighting fires, as provided in section one of this act, may present a claim therefor to the Board of Finance and Revenue, and for the purpose of hearing and adjusting such claims the Secretary of Forests and Waters shall become a member of said Board with full powers of a member thereof.

Section 3. The said Board shall hear and determine all such claims, and if in any case the Board is of the opinion that a moral claim exists against the Commonwealth for any such injury or death, and that such claim is not properly adjustable or cannot then be adjusted under the workmen's compensation laws, it shall make a finding to that effect, and shall fix the sum which in its opinion will compensate the parent, parents, or dependent relative or relatives of the person killed or the person seriously injured. Any amount so fixed by the Board shall be payable from the appropriation hereinbefore made by warrant of the Auditor General, after requisition by the Secretary of Forests and Waters, and to each such requisition shall be attached the findings of the Board. The action of the Board in allowing or disapproving a claim shall be final and there shall be no appeal therefrom, but the Board in its discretion may grant rehearings on any claim and make any new findings, in accordance with this act.