
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 607 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY FARRY, DIGIROLAMO, BAKER, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER,
DALEY, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GOODMAN, GROVE, HESS,
JOSEPHS, W. KELLER, KOTIK, MILLER, O'NEILL, READSHAW,
VULAKOVICH, WATSON, KNOWLES, BRENNAN, VEREB, HACKETT,
GIBBONS, KULA, FLECK, ROCK, TALLMAN, ELLIS, YOUNGBLOOD AND
CLYMER, MARCH 12, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 12, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact H.R.
2 4018 (2012), which would enhance and improve the Public
3 Safety Officers' Benefits Program.

4 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of Pennsylvania
5 recognizes that emergency medical service providers selflessly
6 devote themselves to ensuring the safety of the residents of
7 their communities and ultimately of all the people of this great
8 Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, On March 7, 2010, Danny McIntosh, a paramedic with
10 the Bensalem Rescue Squad in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, died of
11 a massive heart attack while on duty, following the chase of a
12 mentally unstable man who fled medical treatment; and

13 WHEREAS, The Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program was
14 established in Subchapter XII of Chapter 46 of the Omnibus Crime
15 Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-351, 42
16 U.S.C. § 3796 et seq.) and is designed to offer peace of mind to

1 men and women seeking careers in public safety and to make a
2 strong statement about the value American society places on the
3 contributions of those who serve their communities in
4 potentially dangerous circumstances; and

5 WHEREAS, The Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program
6 provides a one-time financial benefit, currently \$323,035.75, to
7 the eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths
8 are the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury
9 sustained in the line of duty; and

10 WHEREAS, A volunteer firefighter and a member of a volunteer
11 rescue squad and ambulance crew are covered only if they are
12 officially recognized or designated as a public employee member
13 of a legally organized volunteer fire, rescue or ambulance
14 department; and

15 WHEREAS, Current Federal law limits these benefits only to
16 emergency service personnel employed by governmental units; and

17 WHEREAS, Emergency medical services in most communities
18 throughout the United States are provided by nonprofit volunteer
19 or private ambulance services, whose members are not
20 governmental unit employees even though they serve the public
21 trust by providing a critically needed service; and

22 WHEREAS, Because the Bensalem Rescue Squad is a nonprofit
23 ambulance service, the fallen paramedic's spouse, Bethann
24 McIntosh, was denied Federal death benefits under the Public
25 Safety Officers' Benefits Program; and

26 WHEREAS, H.R. 4018 (2012) was inspired by the line-of-duty
27 death of Daniel McIntosh and the Federal Government's subsequent
28 denial of relief to his widow and his two daughters; and

29 WHEREAS, The enactment of H.R. 4018 (2012) would extend
30 Federal benefits to the families of volunteer emergency service

1 personnel who die in the line of duty and would be retroactive
2 to June 2009; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania
4 memorialize the Congress of the United States to take favorable
5 action on H.R. 4018 (2012); and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
7 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
8 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.