
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2698 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY ECKER, MULLERY, RYAN, POLINCHOCK, MURT, KULIK,
BERNSTINE, ROTHMAN, READSHAW, McNEILL, PYLE, KORTZ, JOZWIAK
AND YOUNGBLOOD, JULY 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JULY 14, 2020

AN ACT

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

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

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

14 Section 1. * * *

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

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

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

6 * * *

7 "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus as identified in the
8 Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on March 6,
9 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020).

10 * * *

11 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.