
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 556 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, LANGERHOLC, BROOKS, FONTANA, GORDNER,
HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, REGAN AND SCAVELLO, APRIL 13, 2021

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
APRIL 13, 2021

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 on or after
19 March 6, 2020, it shall be presumed that the individual
20 contracted COVID-19 while acting in the performance of his

1 duties for the purposes of this act.

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

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

7 * * *

8 "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus as identified in the
9 Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on March 6,
10 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020).

11 * * *

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.