

AN ACT relating to death benefits for social service workers.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 61.315 is amended to read as follows:

(1) As used in this section:~~[,]~~

(a) "Police officer" means every paid police officer, sheriff, or deputy sheriff, corrections employee with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 196.037, any metropolitan or urban-county correctional officer with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 446.010, any jailer or deputy jailer, any auxiliary police officer appointed pursuant to KRS 95.445, any police officer of a public institution of postsecondary education appointed pursuant to KRS 164.950, or any citation or safety officer appointed pursuant to KRS 83A.087 and 83A.088, elected to office, or employed by any county, airport board created pursuant to KRS Chapter 183, city, or by the state;~~[]~~

(b) "Firefighter" means every paid firefighter or volunteer firefighter who is employed by or volunteers his or her services to the state, airport board created pursuant to KRS Chapter 183, any county, city, fire district, or any other organized fire department recognized, pursuant to KRS 95A.262, as a fire department operated and maintained on a nonprofit basis in the interest of the health and safety of the inhabitants of the Commonwealth and shall include qualified civilian firefighters employed at Kentucky-based military installations; **and**

(c) **"Social service worker" means an employee of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or the immediate supervisor of an employee whose professional duties include adult or child protective services related to:**

1. Investigations;

2. Family need assessments;

3. Interviews, visits, or contact with an involved family member; or

4. Transportation services.

(2) **(a)** The spouse of any police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, corrections employee with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 196.037, any metropolitan or urban-county correctional officer with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 446.010, any jailer or deputy jailer, any auxiliary police officer appointed pursuant to KRS 95.445, any police officer of a public institution of postsecondary education appointed pursuant to KRS 164.950, or any citation or safety officer appointed pursuant to KRS 83A.087 and 83A.088, firefighter, or member of the Kentucky National Guard on state active duty pursuant to KRS 38.030, or a member of a state National Guard or a Reserve component on federal active duty under Title 10 or 32 of the United States Code who names Kentucky as home of record for military purposes, whose death occurs on or after July 1, 2002, as a direct result of an act in the line of duty shall receive a lump-sum payment of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) if there are no surviving children, which sum shall be paid by the State Treasurer from the general ~~expenditure~~ fund of the State Treasury.

(b) The spouse of any social service worker whose death occurs on or after January 1, 2016, as a direct result of an act in the line of duty shall receive a lump-sum payment of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) if there are no surviving children, which sum shall be paid by the State Treasurer from the general fund of the State Treasury.

(c) If there are surviving children and a surviving spouse, the payment **under this subsection** shall be apportioned equally among the surviving children and the spouse. If there is no surviving spouse, the payment shall be made to the surviving children, eighteen (18) or more years of age. For surviving children less than eighteen (18) years of age, the State Treasurer shall:

1. ~~(a)~~ Pay thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to the surviving

children; and

~~2.(b)~~ Hold forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) in trust divided into equal accounts at appropriate interest rates for each surviving child until the child reaches the age of eighteen (18) years.

If a child dies before reaching the age of eighteen (18) years, his or her account shall be paid to his or her estate. If there are no surviving children, the payment shall be made to any parents of the deceased.

- (3) The Commission on Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education shall be authorized to promulgate administrative regulations establishing criteria and procedures applicable to the administration of this section as it pertains to both paid and volunteer firefighters, including but not limited to defining when a firefighter has died in line of duty. Administrative hearings promulgated by administrative regulation under authority of this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.
- (4) The Justice and Public Safety Cabinet may promulgate administrative regulations establishing criteria and procedures applicable to the administration of this section as it pertains to police officers, any metropolitan or urban-county correctional officers with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 446.010, or any jailers or deputy jailers, including but not limited to defining when one has died in line of duty. Administrative hearings promulgated by administrative regulation under authority of this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.
- (5) The Department of Corrections shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the criteria and procedures applicable to the administration of this section as it pertains to correctional employees, including but not limited to defining which employees qualify for coverage and which circumstances constitute death in the line of duty.

(6) *The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the criteria and procedures applicable to the administration of this section as it pertains to social service workers, including but not limited to which employees qualify for coverage and which circumstances constitute death in the line of duty.*

(7) The estate of anyone whose spouse or surviving children would be eligible for benefits under subsection (2) of this section, and the estate of any regular member of the United States Armed Forces who names Kentucky as home of record for military purposes whose death occurs as a direct result of an act in the line of duty, shall be exempt from all probate fees, including but not limited to those established by the Supreme Court of Kentucky pursuant to KRS 23A.200 and 24A.170, or imposed under KRS 24A.185, 64.012, and 172.180.

(8)~~(7)~~ The benefits payable under this section shall be in addition to any benefits now or hereafter prescribed under any police, sheriff, firefighter's, volunteer firefighter's, *social service workers*, or National Guard or Reserve retirement or benefit fund established by the federal government or by any state, county, or any municipality.

(9)~~(8)~~ Any funds appropriated for the purpose of paying the death benefits described in subsection (2) of this section shall be allotted to a self-insuring account. These funds shall not be used for the purpose of purchasing insurance.