

1 AN ACT relating to death-in-the-line-of-duty benefits for the Department of
2 Military Affairs.

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

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

5 (1) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Police officer" means every paid police officer, sheriff, or deputy sheriff,
7 corrections employee with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS
8 196.037, any metropolitan or urban-county correctional officer with the power
9 of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 446.010, any jailer or deputy jailer, any
10 auxiliary police officer appointed pursuant to KRS 95.445, any police officer
11 of a public institution of postsecondary education appointed pursuant to KRS
12 164.950, or any citation or safety officer appointed pursuant to KRS 83A.087
13 and 83A.088, elected to office, or employed by any county, airport board
14 created pursuant to KRS Chapter 183, city, or by the state;

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

23 (c) "Emergency medical services personnel" means any paid or volunteer
24 emergency medical services personnel who is certified or licensed pursuant to
25 KRS Chapter 311A and who is employed directly by, or volunteering directly
26 for, any:

27 1. County;

- 1 2. City;
- 2 3. Fire protection district created under KRS 75.010 to 75.260; or
- 3 4. Emergency ambulance service district created under KRS 108.080 to
- 4 108.180;
- 5 to provide emergency medical services.

6 (2) The spouse of any police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, corrections employee with
7 the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 196.037, any metropolitan or urban-
8 county correctional officer with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS
9 446.010, any jailer or deputy jailer, any auxiliary police officer appointed pursuant
10 to KRS 95.445, any police officer of a public institution of postsecondary education
11 appointed pursuant to KRS 164.950, or any citation or safety officer appointed
12 pursuant to KRS 83A.087 and 83A.088, firefighter, or member of the Kentucky
13 National Guard on state active duty pursuant to KRS 38.030, or a member of a state
14 National Guard or a Reserve component on federal active duty under Title 10 or 32
15 of the United States Code who names Kentucky as home of record for military
16 purposes, whose death occurs on or after July 1, 2002, as a direct result of an act in
17 the line of duty shall receive a lump-sum payment of eighty thousand dollars
18 (\$80,000) if there are no surviving children, which sum shall be paid by the State
19 Treasurer from the general fund of the State Treasury. The spouse of any emergency
20 medical services personnel whose death occurs on or after November 1, 2015, as a
21 direct result of an act in the line of duty shall receive a lump-sum payment of eighty
22 thousand dollars (\$80,000) if there are no surviving children, which sum shall be
23 paid by the State Treasurer from the general fund of the State Treasury. If there are
24 surviving children and a surviving spouse, the payment shall be apportioned equally
25 among the surviving children and the spouse. If there is no surviving spouse, the
26 payment shall be made to the surviving children, eighteen (18) or more years of age.
27 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
3 at appropriate interest rates for each surviving child until the child reaches the
4 age of eighteen (18) years.

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

8 (3) The Commission on Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education shall be
9 authorized to promulgate administrative regulations establishing criteria and
10 procedures applicable to the administration of this section as it pertains to both paid
11 and volunteer firefighters, including but not limited to defining when a firefighter
12 has died in line of duty. Administrative hearings promulgated by administrative
13 regulation under authority of this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with
14 KRS Chapter 13B.

15 (4) The Justice and Public Safety Cabinet may promulgate administrative regulations
16 establishing criteria and procedures applicable to the administration of this section
17 as it pertains to police officers, any metropolitan or urban-county correctional
18 officers with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 446.010, or any jailers or
19 deputy jailers, including but not limited to defining when one has died in line of
20 duty. Administrative hearings promulgated by administrative regulation under
21 authority of this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter
22 13B.

23 (5) The Department of Corrections shall promulgate administrative regulations
24 establishing the criteria and procedures applicable to the administration of this
25 section as it pertains to correctional employees, including but not limited to defining
26 which employees qualify for coverage and which circumstances constitute death in
27 the line of duty.

1 (6) The Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services shall promulgate
2 administrative regulations establishing the criteria and procedures applicable to the
3 administration of this section as it pertains to emergency medical services
4 personnel, including but not limited to which employees or volunteers qualify for
5 coverage and which circumstances constitute death in the line of duty.

6 **(7) The Department of Military Affairs shall promulgate administrative regulations**
7 **establishing the criteria and procedures applicable to the administration of this**
8 **section as it pertains to National Guard or Reserve component members,**
9 **including but not limited to defining which National Guard or Reserve**
10 **Component members qualify for coverage and which circumstances constitute**
11 **death in the line of duty.**

12 ~~(8)~~~~(7)~~ The estate of anyone whose spouse or surviving children would be eligible for
13 benefits under subsection (2) of this section, and the estate of any regular member
14 of the United States Armed Forces who names Kentucky as home of record for
15 military purposes whose death occurs as a direct result of an act in the line of duty,
16 shall be exempt from all probate fees, including but not limited to those established
17 by the Supreme Court of Kentucky pursuant to KRS 23A.200 and 24A.170, or
18 imposed under KRS 24A.185, 64.012, and 172.180.

19 ~~(9)~~~~(8)~~ The benefits payable under this section shall be in addition to any benefits
20 now or hereafter prescribed under any police, sheriff, firefighter's, volunteer
21 firefighter's, emergency medical services personnel, or National Guard or Reserve
22 retirement or benefit fund established by the federal government or by any state,
23 county, or any municipality.

24 ~~(10)~~~~(9)~~ Any funds appropriated for the purpose of paying the death benefits described
25 in subsection (2) of this section shall be allotted to a self-insuring account. These
26 funds shall not be used for the purpose of purchasing insurance.

27 ~~(11)~~~~(10)~~ (a) For the purposes of this section, if a firefighter dies as a result of cancer,

- 1 the death shall be a direct result of an act in the line of duty if the firefighter:
- 2 1. Was a firefighter for at least five (5) consecutive years;
 - 3 2. Developed one (1) or more of the cancers listed in paragraph (b) of this
4 subsection which caused the firefighter's death within ten (10) years of
5 separation from service as a firefighter;
 - 6 3. Did not use tobacco products for a period of ten (10) years prior to the
7 diagnosis of cancer;
 - 8 4. Was under the age of sixty-five (65) at the time of death;
 - 9 5. Was not diagnosed with any cancer prior to employment as a firefighter;
 - 10 and
 - 11 6. Was exposed while in the course of firefighting to a known carcinogen
12 as defined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer or the
13 National Toxicology Program, and the carcinogen is reasonably
14 associated with one (1) or more of the cancers listed in paragraph (b) of
15 this subsection.
- 16 (b) This section shall apply to the following cancers:
- 17 1. Bladder cancer;
 - 18 2. Brain cancer;
 - 19 3. Colon cancer;
 - 20 4. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma;
 - 21 5. Kidney cancer;
 - 22 6. Liver cancer;
 - 23 7. Lymphatic or haematopoietic cancer;
 - 24 8. Prostate cancer;
 - 25 9. Testicular cancer;
 - 26 10. Skin cancer;
 - 27 11. Cervical cancer; and

- 1 12. Breast cancer.
- 2 (c) 1. The provisions of this subsection creating an entitlement to the line of
- 3 duty death benefits shall apply exclusively to this section and shall not
- 4 be interpreted or otherwise construed to create either an express or
- 5 implied presumption of work-relatedness for any type of claim filed
- 6 pursuant to KRS Chapter 342.
- 7 2. This paragraph is intended to provide clarification regarding the sole and
- 8 exclusive application of this subsection to only the benefits available
- 9 under this section and shall not be used as a bar or other type of
- 10 limitation to impair or alter the rights and ability of a claimant to prove
- 11 work-relatedness under KRS Chapter 342 or other laws.