

SENATE BILL 375

By Swann

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7,  
Chapter 51, Part 2, relative to death benefits.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-206, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead the following subsections:

(b) The estate of any firefighter whose death occurred in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). Payment shall be made from the general fund no later than sixty (60) days following receipt by the department of finance and administration of a certified death certificate and an affidavit from the decedent's employer or fire suppression unit that the decedent's death occurred in the line of duty.

(c) In addition to the amount provided by subsection (b), the estate of any firefighter whose death occurred in the line of duty as the result of a criminal act or negligence of another person shall be entitled to receive the additional sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). Payment shall be made from the general fund no later than sixty (60) days following receipt by the department of finance and administration of a certified death certificate and an affidavit from the decedent's employer or fire suppression unit that the decedent's death occurred in the line of duty as a result of a criminal act or negligence of another person.

(d) In addition to the amounts provided in subsections (b) and (c), the estate of any firefighter whose death occurred in the line of duty as the result of a criminal act or negligence of another person, while such firefighter was wearing approved personal protective equipment (PPE) at the time of death, shall be entitled to receive the

additional sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). Payment shall be made from the general fund no later than sixty (60) days following receipt by the department of finance and administration of a certified death certificate and an affidavit from the decedent's employer that the decedent's death occurred in the line of duty as a result of a criminal act or negligence of another person, and that the decedent was wearing approved personal protective equipment (PPE) at the time of the incident resulting in death. This entitlement shall be paid without regard to the manner of injury resulting in death.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-207(b), is amended by deleting the language "shall be entitled to receive the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)" and substituting instead the language "shall be entitled to receive the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-207(b), is further amended by deleting the language "from the general fund after receipt" and substituting instead the language "from the general fund no later than sixty (60) days following receipt".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-51-208, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead the following subsections:

(b) The estate of any law enforcement officer whose death occurred in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). Payment shall be made from the general fund no later than sixty (60) days following receipt by the department of finance and administration of a certified death certificate and an affidavit from the decedent's employer that the decedent's death occurred in the line of duty.

(c) In addition to the amount provided in subsection (b), the estate of any law enforcement officer whose death occurred in the line of duty as the result of a criminal act or negligence of another person shall be entitled to receive the additional sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). Payment shall be made from the general fund no later than sixty (60) days following receipt by the department of finance and administration of a certified death certificate and an affidavit from the decedent's

employer that the decedent's death occurred in the line of duty as a result of a criminal act or negligence of another person.

(d) In addition to the amount provided in subsections (b) and (c), the estate of any law enforcement officer whose death occurred in the line of duty as the result of a criminal act or negligence of another person, while such law enforcement officer was wearing a ballistic protective vest or body armor at the time of death, shall be entitled to receive the additional sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). Payment shall be made from the general fund no later than sixty (60) days following receipt by the department of finance and administration of a certified death certificate and an affidavit from the decedent's employer that the decedent's death occurred in the line of duty as a result of a criminal act or negligence of another person, and that the decedent was wearing a ballistic protective vest or body armor at the time of the incident resulting in death. This entitlement shall be paid without regard to the manner of injury resulting in death.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.