

1 AN ACT relating to death benefits.

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

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

4 (1) As used in this section:

5 (a) "Police officer" means every paid police officer, sheriff, or deputy sheriff,  
6 corrections employee with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS  
7 196.037, any metropolitan or urban-county correctional officer with the power  
8 of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 446.010, any jailer or deputy jailer, any  
9 auxiliary police officer appointed pursuant to KRS 95.445, any police officer  
10 of a public institution of postsecondary education appointed pursuant to KRS  
11 164.950, any school resource officer as defined in KRS 158.441, or any  
12 citation or safety officer appointed pursuant to KRS 83A.087 and 83A.088,  
13 elected to office, or employed by any county, airport board created pursuant to  
14 KRS Chapter 183, city, local board of education, 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, any school resource officer as defined in KRS  
12      158.441, or any citation or safety officer appointed pursuant to KRS 83A.087 and  
13      83A.088, firefighter, or member of the Kentucky National Guard on state active  
14      duty pursuant to KRS 38.030, or a member of a state National Guard or a Reserve  
15      component on federal active duty under Title 10 or 32 of the United States Code  
16      who names Kentucky as home of record for military purposes, whose death occurs  
17      on or after July 1, 2002, as a direct result of an act in the line of duty shall receive a  
18      lump-sum payment of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) if there are no surviving  
19      children, which sum shall be paid by the State Treasurer from the general fund of  
20      the State Treasury. The spouse of any emergency medical services personnel whose  
21      death occurs on or after November 1, 2015, as a direct result of an act in the line of  
22      duty shall receive a lump-sum payment of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) if there  
23      are no surviving children, which sum shall be paid by the State Treasurer from the  
24      general fund of the State Treasury. If there are surviving children and a surviving  
25      spouse, the payment shall be apportioned equally among the surviving children and  
26      the spouse. If there is no surviving spouse, the payment shall be made to the  
27      surviving children, eighteen (18) or more years of age. For surviving children less

1       than eighteen (18) years of age, the State Treasurer shall:

2       (a)   Pay thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to the surviving children; and

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

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

9   (3)   The Kentucky Fire Commission shall be authorized to promulgate administrative  
10       regulations establishing criteria and procedures applicable to the administration of  
11       this section as it pertains to both paid and volunteer firefighters, including but not  
12       limited to defining when a firefighter has died in line of duty. Administrative  
13       hearings promulgated by administrative regulation under authority of this  
14       subsection shall be conducted in accordance with 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, any school  
19       resource officer as defined in KRS 158.441, or any jailers or deputy jailers,  
20       including but not limited to defining when one has died in line of duty.  
21       Administrative hearings promulgated by administrative regulation under authority  
22       of this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 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  
26       defining which employees qualify for coverage and which circumstances constitute  
27       death in 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, including  
9 but not limited to defining which National Guard or Reserve component members  
10 qualify for coverage and which circumstances constitute death in the line of duty.
- 11 (8) The estate of anyone whose spouse or surviving children would be eligible for  
12 benefits under subsection (2) of this section, and the estate of any regular member  
13 of the United States Armed Forces who names Kentucky as home of record for  
14 military purposes whose death occurs as a direct result of an act in the line of duty,  
15 shall be exempt from all probate fees, including but not limited to those established  
16 by the Supreme Court of Kentucky pursuant to KRS 23A.200 and 24A.170, or  
17 imposed under KRS 24A.185, 64.012, and 172.180.
- 18 (9) The benefits payable under this section shall be in addition to any benefits now or  
19 hereafter prescribed under any police, sheriff, firefighter's, volunteer firefighter's,  
20 emergency medical services personnel, or National Guard or Reserve retirement or  
21 benefit fund established by the federal government or by any state, county, or any  
22 municipality.
- 23 (10) Any funds appropriated for the purpose of paying the death benefits described in  
24 subsection (2) of this section shall be allotted to a self-insuring account. These  
25 funds shall not be used for the purpose of purchasing insurance.
- 26 (11) (a) For the purposes of this section, if a firefighter dies as a result of cancer, the  
27 death shall be a direct result of an act in the line of duty if the firefighter:

1. Was a firefighter for at least five (5) consecutive years;
2. Developed one (1) or more of the cancers listed in paragraph (b) of this subsection which caused the firefighter's death within ten (10) years of separation from service as a firefighter;
3. Did not use tobacco products for a period of ten (10) years prior to the diagnosis of cancer;
4. Was under the age of sixty-five (65) at the time of death;
5. Was not diagnosed with any cancer prior to employment as a firefighter; and
6. Was exposed while in the course of firefighting to a known carcinogen as defined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer or the National Toxicology Program, and the carcinogen is reasonably associated with one (1) or more of the cancers listed in paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(b) This section shall apply to the following cancers:

1. Bladder cancer;
2. Brain cancer;
3. Colon cancer;
4. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma;
5. Kidney cancer;
6. Liver cancer;
7. Lymphatic or hematopoietic[haematopoietic] cancer;
8. Prostate cancer;
9. Testicular cancer;
10. Skin cancer;
11. Cervical cancer;[and]
12. Breast cancer;

1           13. Mesothelioma;

2           14. Esophageal cancer;

3           15. Lung cancer;

4           16. Rectal cancer;

5           17. Thyroid cancer;

6           18. Intestinal cancer;

7           19. Multiple myeloma cancer;

8           20. Buccal cancer; and

9           21. Pharyngeal cancer.

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