

1 AN ACT relating to death benefits for social workers and making an appropriation
2 therefor.

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; **and**

6 **(d) "Social service worker" means an employee of the Cabinet for Health and**

7 **Family Services or the immediate supervisor of an employee whose**

8 **professional duties include adult or child protective services related to:**

9 **1. Investigations;**

10 **2. Family need assessments;**

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

12 **4. Transportation services.**

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

1 **(b)** The spouse of any emergency medical services personnel whose death occurs
2 on or after November 1, 2015, as a direct result of an act in the line of duty
3 shall receive a lump-sum payment of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) if
4 there are no surviving children, which sum shall be paid by the State Treasurer
5 from the general fund of the State Treasury.

6 **(c)** **The spouse of any social service worker whose death occurs on or after**
7 **January 1, 2017, as a direct result of an act in the line of duty shall receive**
8 **a lump-sum payment of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) if there are no**
9 **surviving children, which sum shall be paid by the State Treasurer from the**
10 **general fund of the State Treasury.**

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

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

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

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

24 (3) The Commission on Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education shall be
25 authorized to promulgate administrative regulations establishing criteria and
26 procedures applicable to the administration of this section as it pertains to both paid
27 and volunteer firefighters, including but not limited to defining when a firefighter

1 has died in line of duty. Administrative hearings promulgated by administrative
2 regulation under authority of this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with
3 KRS Chapter 13B.

4 (4) The Justice and Public Safety Cabinet may promulgate administrative regulations
5 establishing criteria and procedures applicable to the administration of this section
6 as it pertains to police officers, any metropolitan or urban-county correctional
7 officers with the power of a peace officer pursuant to KRS 446.010, or any jailers or
8 deputy jailers, including but not limited to defining when one has died in line of
9 duty. Administrative hearings promulgated by administrative regulation under
10 authority of this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter
11 13B.

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

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

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

27 (8) The estate of anyone whose spouse or surviving children would be eligible for

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

7 ~~(9)~~~~(8)~~ The benefits payable under this section shall be in addition to any benefits
8 now or hereafter prescribed under any police, sheriff, firefighter's, volunteer
9 firefighter's, emergency medical services personnel, social service workers, or
10 National Guard or Reserve retirement or benefit fund established by the federal
11 government or by any state, county, or any municipality.

12 ~~(10)~~~~(9)~~ Any funds appropriated for the purpose of paying the death benefits described
13 in subsection (2) of this section shall be allotted to a self-insuring account. These
14 funds shall not be used for the purpose of purchasing insurance.

15 ~~(11)~~~~(10)~~ (a) For the purposes of this section, if a firefighter dies as a result of cancer,
16 the death shall be a direct result of an act in the line of duty if the firefighter:
17 1. Was a firefighter for at least five (5) consecutive years;
18 2. Developed one (1) or more of the cancers listed in paragraph (b) of this
19 subsection which caused the firefighter's death within ten (10) years of
20 separation from service as a firefighter;
21 3. Did not use tobacco products for a period of ten (10) years prior to the
22 diagnosis of cancer;
23 4. Was under the age of sixty-five (65) at the time of death;
24 5. Was not diagnosed with any cancer prior to employment as a firefighter;
25 and
26 6. Was exposed while in the course of firefighting to a known carcinogen
27 as defined by the International Agency for Research on Cancer or the

1 National Toxicology Program, and the carcinogen is reasonably
2 associated with one (1) or more of the cancers listed in paragraph (b) of
3 this subsection.

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

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

17 (c) 1. The provisions of this subsection creating an entitlement to the line of
18 duty death benefits shall apply exclusively to this section and shall not
19 be interpreted or otherwise construed to create either an express or
20 implied presumption of work-relatedness for any type of claim filed
21 pursuant to KRS Chapter 342.

22 2. This paragraph is intended to provide clarification regarding the sole and
23 exclusive application of this subsection to only the benefits available
24 under this section and shall not be used as a bar or other type of
25 limitation to impair or alter the rights and ability of a claimant to prove
26 work-relatedness under KRS Chapter 342 or other laws.