
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2685 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY R. MACKENZIE, BERNSTINE, DeLUCA, FARRY, HAMM,
LONGIETTI, M. MACKENZIE, MALONEY, McNEILL, NEILSON, N. NELSON
AND RYAN, JUNE 16, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, JUNE 16, 2022

AN ACT

1 Providing for Keystone First Responder Award.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Keystone
6 First Responder Award Act.

7 Section 2. Award.

8 (a) Award.--The award shall consist of a plaque and a medal.

9 (b) Presentation.--The Governor or the Governor's designee
10 shall present a Keystone First Responder Award to each recipient
11 or surviving next of kin during a public ceremony held on, or as
12 near as practicable to, September 11 of each year.

13 (c) Committee.--The Keystone First Responder Award shall be
14 administered by a committee, which shall consist of:

15 (1) The State Fire Commissioner.

16 (2) The Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency

1 Management Agency.

2 (3) The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical
3 Services within the Department of Health.

4 (4) The Secretary of General Services.

5 (5) The Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police.

6 (6) The President of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police
7 Association.

8 (d) Choice of recipients.--The Governor shall choose, in
9 consultation with the committee, the recipients of the Keystone
10 First Responder Award for each year.

11 Section 3. First responder recipient.

12 (a) Recipient.--A Keystone First Responder Award shall be
13 awarded to:

14 (1) a first responder who suffers a career-ending injury
15 in the line of duty;

16 (2) the surviving next of kin of a first responder who
17 is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty;

18 (3) a Federal first responder or special agent who
19 suffers a career-ending injury in the line of duty assisting
20 a State or local law enforcement agency in this Commonwealth;
21 or

22 (4) the surviving next of kin of a Federal first
23 responder or special agent who sustains a fatal injury while
24 assisting a State or local law enforcement agency in this
25 Commonwealth.

26 (b) Submission of information to committee.--Any individual
27 who has personal knowledge of a first responder who was killed
28 or suffered a career-ending injury in the line of duty, or a
29 Federal first responder or special agent who was killed or
30 suffered a career-ending injury assisting a State or local law

1 enforcement agency in this Commonwealth, may submit that
2 information in writing to the committee.

3 (c) Rules and guidelines.--The committee shall establish
4 rules and guidelines for its operations, for the execution of
5 this act and for the submission of information under subsection
6 (b).

7 (d) Eligibility.--In order for a first responder to be
8 eligible for the award under this act, a first responder must
9 have been killed or suffered a career-ending injury while
10 actively responding to an emergency. The committee shall
11 determine whether or not a submission under subsection (b) is
12 eligible for consideration.

13 (e) Construction.--Nothing in this act shall be construed to
14 have any bearing on:

15 (1) the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as
16 the Workers' Compensation Act;

17 (2) the act of June 28, 1935 (P.L.477, No.193), referred
18 to as the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law;

19 (3) the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424, No.101), referred
20 to as the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death
21 Benefits Act; or

22 (4) any other determination of benefits.

23 (f) Purpose of award.--The Keystone First Responder Award
24 shall only be for recognition purposes.

25 (g) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
26 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
27 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

28 "First responder." Any of the following:

29 (1) A current or former member of an emergency medical
30 services agency, fire company or rescue company.

1 (2) A peace officer.

2 (3) A 911 dispatcher.

3 (4) A coroner or medical examiner who responds in an
4 official capacity to an emergency.

5 (5) A corrections officer.

6 "Peace officer." As defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 501 (relating to
7 definitions).

8 Section 4. Effective date.

9 This act shall take effect in 60 days.