

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 911 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY MEHAFFIE, CERRATO, CIRESI, DEASY, DONAHUE AND  
D. WILLIAMS, MARCH 17, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MARCH 17, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in employees, providing for law  
3 enforcement officer benefits for surviving family members.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 2182. Law enforcement officer benefits for surviving family  
9 members.

10 (a) Death.--Except as otherwise provided in this section, if  
11 a full-time law enforcement officer dies in the line of duty:

12 (1) The surviving spouse of the law enforcement officer  
13 shall be entitled to receive full health benefits for the  
14 remainder of the life of the spouse.

15 (2) Each eligible dependent of the law enforcement  
16 officer shall be entitled to receive full health benefits  
17 until reaching 26 years of age if the dependent is not  
18 eligible for coverage under another eligible employer-

1 sponsored health plan.

2 (b) Disability.--If a full-time law enforcement officer is  
3 disabled from an accident occurring as a result of the  
4 performance of duties while employed:

5 (1) The law enforcement officer and the law enforcement  
6 officer's spouse shall be entitled to receive full health  
7 benefits for the remainder of the life of the law enforcement  
8 officer.

9 (2) Each eligible dependent of the law enforcement  
10 officer shall be entitled to receive full health benefits  
11 until reaching 26 years of age if the dependent is not  
12 eligible for coverage under another eligible employer-  
13 sponsored health plan.

14 (c) Line-of-duty death investigation and determination.--

15 (1) If an investigation is needed prior to making a  
16 line-of-duty death determination regarding a law enforcement  
17 officer for the purposes of this section, existing health  
18 benefits of the law enforcement officer shall be  
19 uninterrupted for the duration of the investigation.

20 (2) The following may make a line-of-duty death  
21 determination regarding a law enforcement officer for the  
22 purposes of this section:

23 (i) The police department or regional police  
24 department that employed the law enforcement officer.

25 (ii) The Department of General Services in  
26 accordance with the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424,  
27 No.101), referred to as the Emergency and Law Enforcement  
28 Personnel Death Benefits Act.

29 (iii) The Bureau of Justice Assistance within the  
30 United States Department of Justice in accordance with 34

1       U.S.C. Ch. 101 Subch. XI Pt. A (relating to death  
2       benefits).

3       (d) Assistance.--A municipality shall assist a surviving  
4       spouse with navigating the process of claims and payments under  
5       this section.

6       (e) Termination of benefits.--All health benefits under this  
7       section shall cease upon the recipient of the health care  
8       benefits reaching 65 years of age.

9       (f) Construction.--If a collective bargaining agreement  
10      provides equal or greater health benefits than those provided  
11      under this section, the collective bargaining agreement shall  
12      govern.

13      (g) Applicability.--In addition to applying to all law  
14      enforcement officers that died in the line of duty, subsections  
15      (a) and (b) apply to a surviving spouse of a law enforcement  
16      officer that was widowed before the effective date of this  
17      subsection.

18      (h) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
19      words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
20      subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

21      "Law enforcement officer." As the term "police officer" is  
22      defined in section 2162 (relating to definitions).

23      "Municipality." A county, city, borough, incorporated town  
24      or township.

25      Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.