

HOUSE BILL 2062

By Halford

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 1 and Title 58, relative to local emergency management agency personnel.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

58-2-126.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "First responders from local emergency management agencies" means emergency management agency personnel, including but not limited to, emergency managers who, as first responders:

(A) Either go directly to the scene of an emergency; or

(B) Provide direct logistical support during the emergency and may go to and from a disaster or emergency area; and

(2) "Local emergency management agency" means an organization created in accordance with this chapter to discharge the emergency management responsibilities and functions of a political subdivision.

(b) All local emergency management agency personnel shall be considered first responders from local emergency management agencies with all the rights, benefits, privileges, and protections available to them pursuant to state and local laws.

(c) The estate of any first responder from a local emergency management agency who is killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), with payment to be made from the general fund after receipt

by the department of finance and administration of a certified death certificate and an affidavit from the decedent's employer that the decedent was killed in the line of duty.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.