

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2023 and 2024 SB3385

Introduced 2/8/2024, by Sen. Robert Peters

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

5 ILCS 345/1	from	Ch.	70,	par.	91
5 ILCS 345/2					
820 ILCS 315/2	from	Ch.	48,	par.	282
820 ILCS 315/3	from	Ch.	48,	par.	283
820 ILCS 315/3.5					
820 ILCS 315/4	from	Ch.	48,	par.	284
820 ILCS 320/3					

Amends the Public Employee Disability Act, the Line of Duty Compensation Act, and the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act. Includes mental health professionals within the scope of the Acts. Defines "mental health professional" as any person employed and dispatched by a unit of local government to respond to crisis calls received on public emergency service lines instead of or in conjunction with law enforcement.

LRB103 37712 SPS 67839 b

1 AN ACT concerning employment.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

- Section 5. The Public Employee Disability Act is amended by changing Sections 1 and 2 as follows:
- 6 (5 ILCS 345/1) (from Ch. 70, par. 91)
- 7 Sec. 1. Disability benefit.
- (a) For the purposes of this Section, "eligible employee" 8 9 means any part-time or full-time State correctional officer or any other full or part-time employee of the Department of 10 Corrections, any full or part-time employee of the Prisoner 11 Review Board, any full or part-time employee of the Department 12 of Human Services working within a penal institution or a 13 14 State mental health or developmental disabilities facility operated by the Department of Human Services, and any 15 16 full-time law enforcement officer or full-time firefighter, including a full-time paramedic or a firefighter who performs 17 paramedic duties, who is employed by the State of Illinois, 18 19 any unit of local government (including any home rule unit), 20 any State supported college or university, or any other public 21 entity granted the power to employ persons for such purposes 22 by law, and any full-time mental health professional employed and dispatched by any unit of local government, including any 23

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- home rule unit, to respond to crisis calls received on public
 emergency service lines instead of or in conjunction with law
 enforcement.
 - (b) Whenever an eligible employee suffers any injury in the line of duty which causes him to be unable to perform his duties, he shall continue to be paid by the employing public entity on the same basis as he was paid before the injury, with no deduction from his sick leave credits, compensatory time for overtime accumulations or vacation, or service credits in a public employee pension fund during the time he is unable to perform his duties due to the result of the injury, but not longer than one year in relation to the same injury, except as otherwise provided under subsection (b-5). However, no injury to an employee of the Department of Corrections or the Prisoner Review Board working within a penal institution or an employee of the Department of Human Services working within a departmental mental health or developmental disabilities facility shall qualify the employee for benefits under this Section unless the injury is the direct or indirect result of violence by inmates of the penal institution or residents of the mental health or developmental disabilities facility.
 - (b-5) Upon the occurrence of circumstances, directly or indirectly attributable to COVID-19, occurring on or after March 9, 2020 and on or before June 30, 2021 (including the period between December 31, 2020 and the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly) which would

hinder the physical recovery from an injury of an eligible employee within the one-year period as required under subsection (b), the eligible employee shall be entitled to an extension of no longer than 60 days by which he or she shall continue to be paid by the employing public entity on the same basis as he or she was paid before the injury. The employing public entity may require proof of the circumstances hindering an eligible employee's physical recovery before granting the extension provided under this subsection (b-5).

- (c) At any time during the period for which continuing compensation is required by this Act, the employing public entity may order at the expense of that entity physical or medical examinations of the injured person to determine the degree of disability.
- (d) During this period of disability, the injured person shall not be employed in any other manner, with or without monetary compensation. Any person who is employed in violation of this paragraph forfeits the continuing compensation provided by this Act from the time such employment begins. Any salary compensation due the injured person from workers' compensation or any salary due him from any type of insurance which may be carried by the employing public entity shall revert to that entity during the time for which continuing compensation is paid to him under this Act. Any person with a disability receiving compensation under the provisions of this Act shall not be entitled to any benefits for which he would

- qualify because of his disability under the provisions of the Illinois Pension Code.
 - (e) Any employee of the State of Illinois, as defined in Section 14-103.05 of the Illinois Pension Code, who becomes permanently unable to perform the duties of such employment due to an injury received in the active performance of his duties as a State employee as a result of a willful act of violence by another employee of the State of Illinois, as so defined, committed during such other employee's course of employment and after January 1, 1988, shall be eligible for benefits pursuant to the provisions of this Section. For purposes of this Section, permanent disability is defined as a diagnosis or prognosis of an inability to return to current job duties by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches.
 - (f) The compensation and other benefits provided to part-time employees covered by this Section shall be calculated based on the percentage of time the part-time employee was scheduled to work pursuant to his or her status as a part-time employee.
 - (g) Pursuant to paragraphs (h) and (i) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution, this Act specifically denies and limits the exercise by home rule units of any power which is inconsistent herewith, and all existing laws and ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby superseded. This Act does not preempt the concurrent exercise

- 1 by home rule units of powers consistent herewith.
- 2 This Act does not apply to any home rule unit with a
- 3 population of over 1,000,000.
- 4 (h) In those cases where the injury to a State employee for
- 5 which a benefit is payable under this Act was caused under
- 6 circumstances creating a legal liability for damages on the
- 7 part of some person other than the State employer, all of the
- 8 rights and privileges, including the right to notice of suit
- 9 brought against such other person and the right to commence or
- join in such suit, as given the employer, together with the
- 11 conditions or obligations imposed under paragraph (b) of
- 12 Section 5 of the Workers' Compensation Act, are also given and
- granted to the State, to the end that, with respect to State
- 14 employees only, the State may be paid or reimbursed for the
- amount of benefit paid or to be paid by the State to the
- injured employee or his or her personal representative out of
- any judgment, settlement, or payment for such injury obtained
- 18 by such injured employee or his or her personal representative
- 19 from such other person by virtue of the injury.
- 20 (Source: P.A. 100-1143, eff. 1-1-19; 101-651, eff. 8-7-20;
- 21 101-653, eff. 2-28-21.)
- 22 (5 ILCS 345/2)
- 23 Sec. 2. Illness disability benefit.
- 24 (a) As used in this Section:
- "Eligible employee" means any full-time law enforcement

officer, any or full-time firefighter, including a full-time paramedic or a firefighter who performs paramedic duties, who is employed by any unit of local government, including any home rule unit, and any full-time mental health professional employed and dispatched by any unit of local government, including any home rule unit, to respond to crisis calls received on public emergency service lines instead of or in conjunction with law enforcement.

"Illness" means any illness, disease, or condition the presence of which in a community results in the declaration of a disaster or emergency by a State, county, or municipal official.

- (b) Whenever an eligible employee suffers an illness in the line of duty which causes the employee to be unable to perform the employee's duties, the employee shall continue to be paid by the employing public entity on the same basis as the employee was paid before the illness, with no deduction from the employee's sick leave credits, compensatory time for overtime accumulations or vacation, or service credits in a public pension fund during the time the employee is unable to perform the employee's duties due to the result of the illness, but not longer than one year in relation to the same illness.
- (c) At any time during the period for which continuing compensation is required by this Act, the employing public entity may order at the expense of that entity physical or

- 1 medical examinations of the ill person to determine the degree 2 of disability.
 - (d) During this period of disability, the ill person shall not be employed in any other manner, with or without a monetary compensation. Any person who is employed in violation of this subsection forfeits the continuing compensation provided by this Act from the time such employment begins. Any salary compensation due to the ill person from workers' compensation or any salary due to the employee from any type of insurance which may be carried by the employing public entity shall revert to that entity during the time for which continuing compensation is paid to the employee under this Act. Any person with a disability receiving compensation under the provisions of this Act shall not be entitled to any benefits for which the employee would qualify because of the employee's disability under the provisions of the Illinois Pension Code.
 - (e) Pursuant to paragraphs (h) and (i) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution, this Act specifically denies and limits the exercise by home rule units of any power which is inconsistent herewith, and all existing laws and ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby superseded. This Act does not preempt the concurrent exercise by home rule units of powers consistent herewith.
- 24 This Act does not apply to any home rule unit with a 25 population of over 1,000,000.
- 26 (Source: P.A. 103-63, eff. 1-1-24.)

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- Section 10. The Line of Duty Compensation Act is amended by changing Sections 2, 3, 3.5, and 4 as follows:
- 3 (820 ILCS 315/2) (from Ch. 48, par. 282)
- Sec. 2. As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (a) "Law enforcement officer" or "officer" means any person employed by the State or a local governmental entity as a policeman, peace officer, auxiliary policeman or in some like position involving the enforcement of the law and protection of the public interest at the risk of that person's life. This includes supervisors, wardens, superintendents and their assistants, guards and keepers, correctional officers, youth supervisors, parole agents, aftercare specialists, school teachers and correctional counsellors in all facilities of both the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice, while within the facilities under the control of the Department of Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Justice or in the act of transporting inmates or wards from one location to another or while performing their official duties, and all other Department of Correction or Department of Juvenile Justice employees who have daily contact with inmates. For the purposes of this Act, "law enforcement officer" or "officer" also means a probation officer, as defined in Section 9b of the Probation and

1 Probation Officers Act.

The death of the foregoing employees of the Department of Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Justice in order to be included herein must be by the direct or indirect willful act of an inmate, ward, work-releasee, parolee, aftercare releasee, parole violator, aftercare release violator, person under conditional release, or any person sentenced or committed, or otherwise subject to confinement in or to the Department of Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Justice.

- (b) "Fireman" means any person employed by the State or a local governmental entity as, or otherwise serving as, a member or officer of a fire department either for the purpose of the prevention or control of fire or the underwater recovery of drowning victims, including volunteer firemen.
- (c) "Local governmental entity" includes counties, municipalities and municipal corporations.
- (d) "State" means the State of Illinois and its departments, divisions, boards, bureaus, commissions, authorities and colleges and universities.
- (e) "Killed in the line of duty" means losing one's life as a result of injury received in the active performance of duties as a law enforcement officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol member, paramedic, fireman, mental health professional, or chaplain if the death occurs within one year from the date the injury was received and if that injury arose

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from violence or other accidental cause. In the case of a State employee, "killed in the line of duty" means losing one's life as a result of injury received in the active performance of one's duties as a State employee, if the death occurs within one year from the date the injury was received and if that injury arose from a willful act of violence by another State employee committed during such other employee's course of employment and after January 1, 1988. The term excludes death resulting from the willful misconduct or intoxication of the officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol member, paramedic, fireman, mental health professional, chaplain, or State employee. However, the burden of proof of such willful misconduct or intoxication of the officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol member, paramedic, fireman, mental health professional, chaplain, or State employee is on the Attorney General. Subject to the conditions set forth in subsection (a) with respect to inclusion under this Act of Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice employees described in that subsection, for the purposes of this Act, instances in which a law enforcement officer receives an injury in the active performance of duties as a law enforcement officer include but are not limited to instances when:

(1) the injury is received as a result of a wilful act of violence committed other than by the officer and a relationship exists between the commission of such act and

the officer's performance of his duties as a law enforcement officer, whether or not the injury is received while the officer is on duty as a law enforcement officer;

- (2) the injury is received by the officer while the officer is attempting to prevent the commission of a criminal act by another or attempting to apprehend an individual the officer suspects has committed a crime, whether or not the injury is received while the officer is on duty as a law enforcement officer;
- (3) the injury is received by the officer while the officer is travelling to or from his employment as a law enforcement officer or during any meal break, or other break, which takes place during the period in which the officer is on duty as a law enforcement officer.

In the case of an Armed Forces member, "killed in the line of duty" means losing one's life while on active duty in connection with the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, or Operation Inherent Resolve.

(f) "Volunteer fireman" means a person having principal employment other than as a fireman, but who is carried on the rolls of a regularly constituted fire department either for the purpose of the prevention or control of fire or the underwater recovery of drowning victims, the members of which are under the jurisdiction of the corporate authorities of a

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- city, village, incorporated town, or fire protection district, 1 2 and includes a volunteer member of a fire department organized under the "General Not for Profit Corporation Act", approved 3 July 17, 1943, as now or hereafter amended, which is under 5 contract with any city, village, incorporated town, fire protection district, or persons residing therein, for fire 6 fighting services. "Volunteer fireman" does not mean an 7 8 individual who volunteers assistance without being regularly 9 enrolled as a fireman.
 - (g) "Civil defense worker" means any person employed by the State or a local governmental entity as, or otherwise serving as, a member of a civil defense work force, including volunteer civil defense work forces engaged in serving the public interest during periods of disaster, whether natural or man-made.
 - (h) "Civil air patrol member" means any person employed by the State or a local governmental entity as, or otherwise serving as, a member of the organization commonly known as the "Civil Air Patrol", including volunteer members of the organization commonly known as the "Civil Air Patrol".
- "Paramedic" 21 (i) means an Emergency Medical 22 Technician-Paramedic certified by the Illinois Department of 23 Public Health under the Emergency Medical Services 24 Systems Act, and all other emergency medical personnel 25 certified by the Illinois Department of Public Health who are 26 members of an organized body or not-for-profit corporation

- under the jurisdiction of a city, village, incorporated town, fire protection district or county, that provides emergency
- 3 medical treatment to persons of a defined geographical area.
- 4 (j) "State employee" means any employee as defined in Section 14-103.05 of the Illinois Pension Code, as now or hereafter amended.
 - (k) "Chaplain" means an individual who:
 - (1) is a chaplain of (i) a fire department or (ii) a police department or other agency consisting of law enforcement officers; and
 - (2) has been designated a chaplain by (i) the fire department, police department, or other agency or an officer or body having jurisdiction over the department or agency or (ii) a labor organization representing the firemen or law enforcement officers.
 - (1) "Armed Forces member" means an Illinois resident who is: a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; a member of the Illinois National Guard while on active military service pursuant to an order of the President of the United States; or a member of any reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States while on active military service pursuant to an order of the President of the United States.
 - (m) "Mental health professional" means any person employed and dispatched by a unit of local government to respond to crisis calls received on public emergency service lines instead of or in conjunction with law enforcement.

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1 (Source: P.A. 102-221, eff. 1-1-22.)

- 2 (820 ILCS 315/3) (from Ch. 48, par. 283)
- 3 Sec. 3. Duty death benefit.
- 4 (a) If a claim therefor is made within 2 years of the date 5 of death of a law enforcement officer, civil defense worker, 6 civil air patrol member, paramedic, fireman, chaplain, mental 7 health professional, or State employee killed in the line of duty, or if a claim therefor is made within 2 years of the date 8 9 of death of an Armed Forces member killed in the line of duty, 10 compensation shall be paid to the person designated by the law 11 enforcement officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol 12 member, paramedic, fireman, chaplain, mental 13 professional, State employee, or Armed Forces member. However, 14 if the Armed Forces member was killed in the line of duty before October 18, 2004, the claim must be made within one year 15 16 of October 18, 2004. In addition, if a death occurred after December 31, 2016 and before January 1, 2021, the claim may be 17 made no later than December 31, 2022 notwithstanding any other 18 19 deadline established under this Act with respect to filing a 20 claim for a duty death benefit.
 - (b) The amount of compensation, except for an Armed Forces member, shall be \$10,000 if the death in the line of duty occurred prior to January 1, 1974; \$20,000 if such death occurred after December 31, 1973 and before July 1, 1983; \$50,000 if such death occurred on or after July 1, 1983 and

- before January 1, 1996; \$100,000 if the death occurred on or after January 1, 1996 and before May 18, 2001; \$118,000 if the death occurred on or after May 18, 2001 and before July 1, 2002; and \$259,038 if the death occurred on or after July 1, 2002 and before January 1, 2003. For an Armed Forces member killed in the line of duty (i) at any time before January 1, 2005, the compensation is \$259,038 plus amounts equal to the increases for 2003 and 2004 determined under subsection (c) and (ii) on or after January 1, 2005, the compensation is the amount determined under item (i) plus the applicable increases for 2005 and thereafter determined under subsection (c).
 - (c) Except as provided in subsection (b), for deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2003, the death compensation rate for death in the line of duty occurring in a particular calendar year shall be the death compensation rate for death occurring in the previous calendar year (or in the case of deaths occurring in 2003, the rate in effect on December 31, 2002) increased by a percentage thereof equal to the percentage increase, if any, in the index known as the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: U.S. city average, unadjusted, for all items, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the 12 months ending with the month of June of that previous calendar year.
 - (d) If no beneficiary is designated or if no designated beneficiary survives at the death of the law enforcement

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officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol member, paramedic, fireman, mental health professional, chaplain, or State employee killed in the line of duty, the compensation shall be paid in accordance with a legally binding will left by the law enforcement officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol member, paramedic, fireman, mental health professional, chaplain, or State employee. If the law enforcement officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol member, paramedic, mental health professional, chaplain, or fireman, emplovee did not leave a legally binding will, the compensation shall be paid as follows:

- (1) when there is a surviving spouse, the entire sum shall be paid to the spouse;
- (2) when there is no surviving spouse, but a surviving descendant of the decedent, the entire sum shall be paid to the decedent's descendants per stirpes;
- (3) when there is neither a surviving spouse nor a surviving descendant, the entire sum shall be paid to the parents of the decedent in equal parts, allowing to the surviving parent, if one is dead, the entire sum; and
- (4) when there is no surviving spouse, descendant or parent of the decedent, but there are surviving brothers or sisters, or descendants of a brother or sister, who were receiving their principal support from the decedent at his death, the entire sum shall be paid, in equal parts, to the dependent brothers or sisters or dependent

descendant of a brother or sister. Dependency shall be determined by the Court of Claims based upon the investigation and report of the Attorney General.

The changes made to this subsection (d) by this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly apply to any pending case as long as compensation has not been paid to any party before the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly.

(d-1) For purposes of subsection (d), in the case of a person killed in the line of duty who was born out of wedlock and was not an adoptive child at the time of the person's death, a person shall be deemed to be a parent of the person killed in the line of duty only if that person would be an eligible parent, as defined in Section 2-2 of the Probate Act of 1975, of the person killed in the line of duty. This subsection (d-1) applies to any pending claim if compensation was not paid to the claimant of the pending claim before the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly.

(d-2) If no beneficiary is designated or if no designated beneficiary survives at the death of the Armed Forces member killed in the line of duty, the compensation shall be paid in entirety according to the designation made on the most recent version of the Armed Forces member's Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate ("SGLI").

If no SGLI form exists at the time of the Armed Forces

member's death, the compensation shall be paid in accordance with a legally binding will left by the Armed Forces member.

If no SGLI form exists for the Armed Forces member and the Armed Forces member did not leave a legally binding will, the compensation shall be paid to the persons and in the priority as set forth in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (d) of this Section.

This subsection (d-2) applies to any pending case as long as compensation has not been paid to any party before the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly.

- (e) If there is no beneficiary designated or if no designated beneficiary survives at the death of the law enforcement officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol member, paramedic, fireman, mental health professional, chaplain, State employee, or Armed Forces member killed in the line of duty and there is no other person or entity to whom compensation is payable under this Section, no compensation shall be payable under this Act.
- (f) No part of such compensation may be paid to any other person for any efforts in securing such compensation.
- (g) This amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly applies to claims made on or after October 18, 2004 with respect to an Armed Forces member killed in the line of duty.
- (h) In any case for which benefits have not been paid within 6 months of the claim being filed in accordance with

this Section, which is pending as of the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly, and in which there are 2 or more beneficiaries, at least one of whom would receive at least a portion of the total benefit regardless of the manner in which the Court of Claims resolves the claim, the Court shall direct the Comptroller to pay the minimum amount of money which the determinate beneficiary would receive together with all interest payment penalties which have accrued on that portion of the award being paid within 30 days of the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly. For purposes of this subsection (h), "determinate beneficiary" means the beneficiary who would receive any portion of the total benefit claimed regardless of the manner in which the Court of Claims adjudicates the claim.

- (i) The Court of Claims shall ensure that all individuals who have filed an application to claim the duty death benefit for a deceased member of the Armed Forces pursuant to this Section or for a fireman pursuant to this Section, or their designated representative, shall have access, on a timely basis and in an efficient manner, to all information related to the court's consideration, processing, or adjudication of the claim, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - (1) a reliable estimate of when the Court of Claims will adjudicate the claim, or if the Court cannot estimate when it will adjudicate the claim, a full written explanation of the reasons for this inability; and

- 1 (2) a reliable estimate, based upon consultation with 2 the Comptroller, of when the benefit will be paid to the 3 claimant.
- (j) The Court of Claims shall send written notice to all 5 claimants within 2 weeks of the initiation of a claim 6 indicating whether or not the application is complete. For 7 purposes of this subsection (j), an application is complete if a claimant has submitted to the Court of Claims all documents 8 9 and information the Court requires for adjudicating and paying 10 the benefit amount. For purposes of this subsection (j), a 11 claim for the duty death benefit is initiated when a claimant 12 submits any of the application materials required for adjudicating the claim to the Court of Claims. In the event a 13 14 claimant's application is incomplete, the Court shall include 15 in its written notice a list of the information or documents 16 which the claimant must submit in order for the application to 17 be complete. In no case may the Court of Claims deny a claim and subsequently re-adjudicate the same claim for the purpose 18 19 of evading or reducing the interest penalty payment amount 20 payable to any claimant.
- 21 (Source: P.A. 102-215, eff. 7-30-21; 103-8, eff. 6-7-23.)
- 22 (820 ILCS 315/3.5)
- Sec. 3.5. Burial benefit. A burial benefit of up to a maximum of \$20,000 shall be payable to the surviving spouse or estate of a law enforcement officer, mental health

- 1 <u>professional</u>, or fireman who is killed in the line of duty
- 2 after June 30, 2018.
- 3 The Attorney General and the Court of Claims may jointly
- 4 adopt rules and procedures for the implementation of this
- 5 Section.
- 6 (Source: P.A. 101-28, eff. 1-1-20.)
- 7 (820 ILCS 315/4) (from Ch. 48, par. 284)
- 8 Sec. 4. Notwithstanding Section 3, no compensation is
- 9 payable under this Act unless a claim therefor is filed,
- 10 within the time specified by that Section with the Court of
- 11 Claims on an application prescribed and furnished by the
- 12 Attorney General and setting forth:
- 13 (a) the name, address and title or designation of the
- 14 position in which the officer, civil defense worker, civil
- air patrol member, paramedic, fireman, chaplain, State
- employee, or Armed Forces member was serving at the time
- of his death;
- 18 (b) the names and addresses of person or persons
- designated by the officer, civil defense worker, civil air
- 20 patrol member, paramedic, fireman, chaplain, mental health
- 21 professional, State employee, or Armed Forces member to
- receive the compensation and, if more than one, the
- 23 percentage or share to be paid to each such person, or if
- there has been no such designation, the name and address
- of the personal representative of the estate of the

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officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol member,
paramedic, fireman, mental health professional, chaplain,
State employee, or Armed Forces member;

- (c) a full, factual account of the circumstances resulting in or the course of events causing the death of the officer, civil defense worker, civil air patrol member, paramedic, fireman, mental health professional, chaplain, State employee, or Armed Forces member; and
- (d) such other information as the Court of Claims reasonably requires.

When a claim is filed, the Attorney General shall make an investigation for substantiation of matters set forth in such an application.

For the 2 years immediately following the effective date of this amendatory act of the 96th General Assembly, the Court Claims shall direct the Comptroller to "Modified-Eligibility Line of Duty Benefit" to eligible late claimants who file a claim for the benefit. A claim for a Modified-Eligibility Line of Duty Benefit must include all the application materials and documents required for all other claims payable under this Act, except as otherwise provided in this Section 4. For purposes of this Section 4 only, an "eligible late claimant" is a person who would have been eligible, at any time after September 11, 2001, to apply for and receive payment of a claim pursuant to this Act in connection with the death of an Armed Forces member killed in

- the line of duty or a fireman killed in the line of duty, but did not receive the award payment because:
 - (1) the claim was rejected only because the claim was not filed within the time limitation set forth in subsection (a) of Section 3 of this Act; or
 - (2) having met all other preconditions for applying for and receiving the award payment, the claimant did not file a claim because the claim would not have been filed within the time limitation set forth in subsection (a) of Section 3 of this Act. For purposes of this Section 4 only, the "Modified-Eligibility Line of Duty Benefit" is an amount of money payable to eligible late claimants equal to the amount set forth in Section 3 of this Act payable to claimants seeking payment of awards under Section 3 of this Act for claims made thereunder in the year in which the claim for the Modified-Eligibility Line of Duty Benefit is made. Within 6 months of receiving a complete claim for the Modified-Eligibility Line of Duty Benefit, the Court of Claims must direct the Comptroller to pay the benefit amount to the eligible late claimant.
- 21 (Source: P.A. 96-539, eff. 1-1-10; 96-923, eff. 1-1-11.)
- 22 Section 15. The Public Safety Employee Benefits Act is 23 amended by changing Section 3 as follows:

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Sec. 3. Definition. For the purposes of this Act, the term 1 2 "firefighter" includes, without limitation, a licensed emergency medical technician (EMT) who is a sworn member of a 3 public fire department, a paramedic employed by a unit of 4 5 government, or an EMT, emergency 6 technician-intermediate (EMT-I), or advanced emergency medical 7 technician (A-EMT) employed by a unit of local government.

For the purposes of this Act, the term "health insurance plan" is limited to the insurance plan options that are codified in the employee's collective bargaining agreement. If the collective bargaining agreement is silent on plan options, the available plans for the employee shall be negotiated with the authorized representative and subject to the grievance process.

For the purposes of this Act, the term "full-time law enforcement" includes mental health professionals employed and dispatched by a unit of local government to respond to crisis calls received on public emergency service lines instead of or in conjunction with law enforcement.

20 (Source: P.A. 102-439, eff. 1-1-22.)