



NEWS RELEASE

from

STATE SENATOR

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SENATE PASSES LOGAN BILL FOR FAMILIES OF POLICE OFFICERS

HARRISBURG, August 26, 2009 - - The state Senate has unanimously approved state Sen. Sean Logan's bill that would ensure that the families of public safety employees killed in the line of duty receive death benefits.

The bill (Senate Bill 369) now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

"I am pleased and heartened by the bipartisan unanimous support for my legislation," said Logan (D-Allegheny/Westmoreland). "I am hopeful the House will soon act and send this bill to the governor for enactment.

"Senate Bill 369 would provide police, fire and emergency service officers with the assurance that their families will be provided for if something happens to them. It is a fitting, fair and tangible way to honor and thank officers who risk their lives for us on a daily basis."

The Logan bill would guarantee killed-in-service-death benefits to all spouses or minor children of a paid firefighter, law enforcement officer and ambulance service or rescue squad member equal to the amount of the decedent's monthly salary.

Under current law, pension and workers' compensation payments now provide death benefits that cover a portion of the salaries of troopers, officers, firefighters and emergency

personnel in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and third-class cities who are killed in the line of duty. Under the bill, the state would pick up the remaining share.

Boroughs and townships currently pay the entire cost of benefits for their police. Senate Bill 369 would shift these costs to the state. A Senate actuarial study estimates the annual cost to the state to be \$9,000 for each officer killed in the line of duty.

Senator Jane C. Orié, Majority Whip (R-Allegheny) added, “I am pleased to join with Senator Logan on this bipartisan effort that assures adequate financial protection for families of fallen police officer and other emergency responders.”

Sen. John Rafferty (R-Montgomery) noted, “This measure provides peace of mind and solid assurance to our officers that their loved one will receive adequate and full survivor benefits. I am proud to have co-sponsored this legislation.

Sen. Christine Tartaglione (D-Phila.) added, “With the disturbing rash of police officer shooting deaths in our cities, I am pleased to see this reasonable legislative gesture that demonstrates the unwavering support and commitment from Pennsylvania’s citizens for all emergency responders.”

Logan said, “I will continue to fight for legislation that truly supports Pennsylvania’s emergency safety personnel by adequately training, equipping, and protecting them.”

Since 2002, 32 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty. Of these officers, nine were members of the current pension plans providing the killed-in-service benefit. The surviving beneficiaries of the remaining 23 law enforcement officers and an additional 15 firefighters were not eligible for the benefit because these public safety employees were not members of the Act 600 pension plan.

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