

As Introduced

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

H. B. No. 759

Representatives Rogers, Hoops

Cosponsors: Representatives Clites, Crossman, Galonski, Ghanbari, Hicks-Hudson, Ingram, Lepore-Hagan, Liston, Lightbody, Miller, J., Smith, K., Miranda, Patterson, West

A BILL

To create the Volunteer Peace Officer and 1
Firefighter Benefit Study Committee to examine 2
disability and survivor benefits paid to 3
volunteer and part-time peace officers and 4
firefighters and their dependents. 5

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

Section 1. (A) As used in this section: 6

(1) "Killed or disabled in the line of duty" means either 7
of the following: 8

(a) Death or disability occurring in the line of duty; 9

(b) Death or disability arising from an injury sustained 10
in the line of duty. 11

(2) "Volunteer peace officer" has the same meaning as in 12
section 143.01 of the Revised Code. 13

(3) "Volunteer firefighter," "fire department," and 14
"private volunteer fire company" have the same meanings as in 15

section 146.01 of the Revised Code. 16

(B) There is created the Volunteer Peace Officer and 17
Firefighter Benefit Study Committee to examine benefits paid to 18
volunteer peace officers and firefighters and their dependents 19
when the peace officer or firefighter is killed or disabled in 20
the line of duty. The Committee shall prepare a report that 21
makes findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on 22
all of the following: 23

(1) The funding of benefits paid to volunteer peace 24
officers and firefighters and their dependents; 25

(2) The amount and duration of benefits paid to volunteer 26
peace officers and firefighters and their dependents; 27

(3) The disparities, if any, in benefits paid to volunteer 28
peace officers and firefighters and their dependents when 29
compared to career peace officers and firefighters and their 30
dependents; 31

(4) The desirability of the General Assembly appropriating 32
money to fund benefits paid to volunteer peace officers and 33
firefighters and their dependents; 34

(5) Any legislation that would increase the benefits paid 35
to volunteer peace officers and firefighters and their 36
dependents or improve the administration of the benefits. 37

(C) The Committee shall consist of the following members: 38

(1) Three members of the House of Representatives, 39
appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two of 40
whom shall be members of the majority party and one of whom 41
shall be a member of the minority party; 42

(2) Three members of the Senate, appointed by the 43

President of the Senate, two of whom shall be members of the 44
majority party and one of whom shall be a member of the minority 45
party; 46

(3) One member representing the Department of Commerce 47
appointed by the Director of Commerce; 48

(4) One member representing the Ohio Police and Fire 49
Pension Fund appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Ohio 50
Police and Fire Pension Fund; 51

(5) One member representing the Public Employees 52
Retirement System appointed by the Public Employees Retirement 53
Board. 54

(D) In appointing the members described in divisions (C) 55
(1) and (2) of this section, the Speaker of the House of 56
Representatives and the President of the Senate shall give 57
preference to the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and ranking 58
members of the standing committees of the House of 59
Representatives and Senate that customarily consider legislation 60
regarding finance. 61

All members of the Committee shall be appointed as soon as 62
practicable after the General Assembly has established the 63
membership of its standing committees. 64

(E) Seven members of the Committee constitute a quorum for 65
the conduct of Committee business. 66

The members of the Committee shall select a chairperson 67
and a vice-chairperson from among the members of the Committee. 68

Members of the Committee shall serve without compensation 69
or reimbursement. 70

Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled in the same 71

manner as original appointments. 72

The Legislative Service Commission shall provide 73
administrative and technical support for the Committee. 74

(F) The Committee shall hold its first meeting not more 75
than thirty days after the members appointed by the Speaker of 76
the House of Representatives and President of the Senate have 77
been appointed. 78

(G) Not later than December 31, 2021, the Committee shall 79
publish its findings and recommendations and submit its report 80
to the General Assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the 81
Revised Code. On submission of the report, the Committee is 82
abolished. 83

Section 2. Section 1 of this act takes effect January 1, 84
2021. 85