

As Introduced

131st General Assembly

Regular Session

2015-2016

H. B. No. 465

Representatives Ruhl, Ryan

Cosponsors: Representatives Grossman, Hill, Rogers, Schaffer, Phillips, Blessing

A BILL

To amend section 143.09 of the Revised Code to 1
retroactively extend eligibility for benefits 2
from the Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependents 3
Fund to situations in which, on or after January 4
1, 2016, a volunteer peace officer is totally 5
and permanently disabled or killed in the line 6
of duty. 7

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

Section 1. That section 143.09 of the Revised Code be 8
amended to read as follows: 9

Sec. 143.09. (A) A volunteer peace officer who, on or 10
after January 1, 2016, is totally and permanently disabled as a 11
result of discharging the duties of a volunteer peace officer 12
shall receive a benefit from the volunteer peace officers' 13
dependents fund of three hundred dollars per month, except that 14
no payment shall be made to a volunteer peace officer who is 15
receiving the officer's full salary during the time of the 16
officer's disability. 17

(B) Regardless of whether the volunteer peace officer 18

received a benefit under division (A) of this section, death 19
benefits shall be paid from the fund to the surviving spouse or 20
dependent children of a volunteer peace officer who, on or after 21
January 1, 2016, is killed in the line of duty. Death benefits 22
shall be paid as follows: 23

(1) To the surviving spouse of a volunteer peace officer 24
killed in the line of duty, an award of one thousand dollars, 25
and in addition, a benefit of three hundred dollars per month; 26

(2) To the parent, guardian, or other persons on whom a 27
child of a volunteer peace officer killed in the line of duty is 28
dependent for chief financial support, a benefit of one hundred 29
twenty-five dollars per month for each dependent child under age 30
eighteen, or under age twenty-two if attending an institution of 31
learning or training pursuant to a program designed to complete 32
in each school year the equivalent of at least two-thirds of the 33
full-time curriculum requirements of the institution. 34

(C) An individual eligible for benefits payable under this 35
section shall file a claim for benefits with the appropriate 36
volunteer peace officers' dependents fund board on a form 37
provided by the board. All of the following information shall be 38
submitted with the claim: 39

(1) In the case of a totally and permanently disabled 40
volunteer peace officer, the following: 41

(a) The name of the police or sheriff's department for 42
which the officer was a volunteer peace officer; 43

(b) The date of the injury; 44

(c) Satisfactory medical evidence that the officer is 45
totally and permanently disabled. 46

(2) In the case of a surviving spouse or a parent, 47
guardian, or other person in charge of a dependent child, the 48
following: 49

(a) The full name of the deceased volunteer peace officer; 50

(b) The name of the police or sheriff's department for 51
which the deceased officer was a volunteer peace officer; 52

(c) The name and address of the surviving spouse, as 53
applicable; 54

(d) The names, ages, and addresses of any dependent 55
children; 56

(e) Any other evidence required by the board. 57

(D) All claimants shall certify that neither the claimant 58
nor the person on whose behalf the claim is filed qualifies for 59
other benefits from any of the following based on the officer's 60
service as a volunteer peace officer: the public employees 61
retirement system, Ohio police and fire pension fund, state 62
highway patrol retirement system, Cincinnati retirement system, 63
or Ohio public safety officers death benefit fund. 64

(E) Initial claims shall be filed with the volunteer peace 65
officers' dependents fund board of the fund member in which the 66
officer was a volunteer peace officer. Thereafter, on request of 67
the claimant or the board, claims may be transferred to a board 68
near the claimant's current residence, if the boards concerned 69
agree to the transfer. 70

Section 2. That existing section 143.09 of the Revised 71
Code is hereby repealed. 72