

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**H. B. No. 337**

**Representatives Riedel, Plummer**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Gross, Abrams, Cross, Hall, Galonski, Edwards,  
McClain, Johnson, Ginter, Loychik, Stoltzfus, Pavliga, White, Click**

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**A BILL**

To provide a one-time bonus award to eligible first responders and to make an appropriation. 1  
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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** (A) As used in this section: 3

(1) "Employer" means the state or any agency or instrumentality of the state, and any municipal corporation, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision or any agency or instrumentality thereof. 4  
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(2) "First responder" means all of the following: 8

(a) A regular police officer employed by a municipal corporation or township; 9  
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(b) A regular firefighter employed by a municipal corporation, township, or joint fire district; 11  
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(c) A qualified employee in the uniform division of the State Highway Patrol; 13  
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(d) A county deputy sheriff; 15

(e) An investigator, as defined in section 109.541 of the Revised Code, of the bureau of criminal identification and investigation who is commissioned by the superintendent of the bureau as a special agent for the purpose of assisting law enforcement officers or providing emergency assistance to peace officers pursuant to authority granted under that section;

(f) A jail officer as described in section 341.05 of the Revised Code;

(g) A volunteer firefighter as defined in section 146.01 of the Revised Code;

(h) An individual employed by an employer in a position that requires a certificate issued under section 4765.30 of the Revised Code to practice as a first responder, emergency medical technician-basic, emergency medical technician-intermediate, or emergency medical technician paramedic, whether paid or volunteer.

(3) "State agency" has the same meaning as in section 1.60 of the Revised Code.

(B) The One-Time Bonus Awards to Pandemic First Responders Program is created to provide one-time bonus awards to eligible first responders. A first responder is eligible to receive a one-time bonus award under this section if, with respect to the period beginning March 1, 2020, and ending on the date on which the first responder's employer submits a certification under division (D) of this section, the first responder meets both of following requirements:

(1) The first responder has continuously been employed as a first responder by any employer;

(2) The first responder was not subject to any form of

disciplinary action, including a written reprimand, suspension, 45  
dismissal, or voluntary or involuntary demotion associated with 46  
a disciplinary action. 47

(C) (1) An eligible first responder shall receive a one- 48  
time bonus award in the following amounts: 49

(a) For a full-time first responder, one thousand dollars; 50

(b) For a part-time first responder, volunteer 51  
firefighter, or first responder described in division (A) (2) (h) 52  
who performs services for the employer on a volunteer basis, 53  
five hundred dollars. 54

(2) An eligible first responder employed on a full-time 55  
basis at any time during the time period described in division 56  
(B) of this section shall receive the one-time bonus award of 57  
one thousand dollars under this section, regardless of whether 58  
the first responder serves in a full-time position at the time 59  
the employer issues the award. 60

(D) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of 61  
this section, each employer that employs an eligible first 62  
responder shall certify both of the following to the Attorney 63  
General in accordance with any guidelines the Attorney General 64  
establishes under division (F) of this section: 65

(1) The number of first responders employed by the 66  
employer who meet the eligibility requirements under division 67  
(B) of this section to receive a one-time bonus award; 68

(2) The award amount for which each eligible first 69  
responder qualifies under division (C) of this section. 70

(E) (1) Not later than ninety days after the effective date 71  
of this section, the Attorney General shall distribute the 72

appropriate funds to each employer that submitted a 73  
certification under division (D) of this section in accordance 74  
with any guidelines the Attorney General establishes under 75  
division (F) of this section. 76

(2) On the Attorney General distributing the funds, each 77  
employer that receives funds shall, as soon as administratively 78  
practicable, issue the one-time bonus award to each eligible 79  
first responder. 80

(F) (1) The Attorney General may do either of the 81  
following: 82

(a) Require any employer to provide the Attorney General 83  
with any information necessary to carry out the Attorney 84  
General's duties under this section, including payroll and 85  
employment records; 86

(b) Establish guidelines regarding either of the 87  
following: 88

(i) The certification requirement described in division 89  
(D) of this section, including the manner by which each employer 90  
shall submit a certification under that division; 91

(ii) The manner by which the Attorney General shall 92  
distribute funds under division (E) (1) of this section. 93

(2) The Attorney General shall not establish eligibility 94  
requirements that are in addition to the requirements described 95  
in division (B) of this section for a first responder to receive 96  
a one-time bonus award. 97

(G) No award issued under this section shall be considered 98  
earnable salary for purposes of Chapter 145. of the Revised 99  
Code, salary for purposes of Chapter 742. of the Revised Code, 100

or salary for purposes of Chapter 5505. of the Revised Code. 101

(H) Eligibility for, the amount of, and payment of a one- 102  
time bonus award under this section are not appropriate subjects 103  
of bargaining under Chapter 4117. of the Revised Code. 104

(I) The Auditor of State may audit the program created 105  
under this section, including any spending by an employer under 106  
it against an employer's payroll and employment records, with 107  
respect to either of the following: 108

(1) The certification an employer submits to the Attorney 109  
General under division (D) of this section; 110

(2) Any one-time bonus award an employer issues to a first 111  
responder under this section. 112

**Section 2.** All items in this section are hereby 113  
appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state 114  
treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all 115  
appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are 116  
for fiscal year 2022 and those in the second column are for 117  
fiscal year 2023. The appropriations made in this act are in 118  
addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2022-FY 119  
2023 biennium. 120

**Section 3.** 121

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A AGO ATTORNEY GENERAL

B Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

C	5CV3	055665	First Responder Awards - ARPA	\$82,736,500	\$0
D	TOTAL DPF Dedicated Purpose Fund Group			\$82,736,500	\$0
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$82,736,500	\$0

FIRST RESPONDER AWARDS - ARPA 123

The foregoing appropriation item 055665, First Responder 124  
Awards - ARPA, shall be used by the Attorney General, in 125  
accordance with Section 9901 of the "American Rescue Plan Act of 126  
2021," Pub. L. No. 117-2, to provide a one-time bonus award to 127  
eligible first responders, as described in Section 1 of this 128  
act. Of the foregoing appropriation item, the Attorney General 129  
may use \$125,000 to pay for related administrative expenses. 130

**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the 131  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 132  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 133  
made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in 134  
which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures 135  
from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for 136  
as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the 137  
134th General Assembly. The appropriations made in this act are 138  
subject to all provisions of the main operating appropriations 139  
act of the 134th General Assembly that are generally applicable 140  
to such appropriations. 141