

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1269

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. AMO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Honoring Our Fallen
5 Heroes Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES.**

7 (a) CANCER-RELATED DEATHS AND DISABIL-
8 ITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1201 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(p) EXPOSURE-RELATED CANCERS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) CARCINOGEN.—The term ‘carcinogen’ means an agent that is—

“(i) classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer under Group 1 or Group 2A; and

“(ii) reasonably linked to an exposure-related cancer.

“(B) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Bureau.

“(C) EXPOSURE-RELATED CANCER.—As updated from time to time in accordance with paragraph (3), the term ‘exposure-related cancer’ means—

“(i) bladder cancer;

“(ii) brain cancer;

“(iii) breast cancer;

“(iv) cervical cancer;

“(v) colon cancer;

“(vi) colorectal cancer;

1 “(vii) esophageal cancer;
2 “(viii) kidney cancer;
3 “(ix) leukemia;
4 “(x) lung cancer;
5 “(xi) malignant melanoma;
6 “(xii) mesothelioma;
7 “(xiii) multiple myeloma;
8 “(xiv) non-Hodgkins lymphoma;
9 “(xv) ovarian cancer;
10 “(xvi) prostate cancer;
11 “(xvii) skin cancer;
12 “(xviii) stomach cancer;
13 “(xix) testicular cancer;
14 “(xx) thyroid cancer;
15 “(xxi) any form of cancer that is con-
16 sidered a WTC-related health condition
17 under section 3312(a) of the Public Health
18 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm–22(a));
19 and
20 “(xxii) any form of cancer added to
21 this definition pursuant to an update in ac-
22 cordance with paragraph (3).
23 “(2) PERSONAL INJURY SUSTAINED IN THE
24 LINE OF DUTY.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B), as determined by the Bureau, the
3 exposure of a public safety officer to a car-
4 cinogen shall be presumed to constitute a per-
5 sonal injury within the meaning of subsection
6 (a) or (b) sustained in the line of duty by the
7 officer and directly and proximately resulting in
8 death or permanent and total disability, if—

9 “(i) the exposure occurred while the
10 public safety officer was engaged in line of
11 duty action or activity;

12 “(ii) the public safety officer began
13 serving as a public safety officer not fewer
14 than 5 years before the date of the diag-
15 nosis of the public safety officer with an
16 exposure-related cancer;

17 “(iii) the public safety officer was di-
18 agnosed with the exposure-related cancer
19 not more than 15 years after the public
20 safety officer’s last date of active service as
21 a public safety officer; and

22 “(iv) the exposure-related cancer di-
23 rectly and proximately results in the death
24 or permanent and total disability of the
25 public safety officer.

1 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The presumption
2 under subparagraph (A) shall not apply if com-
3 petent medical evidence establishes that the ex-
4 posure of the public safety officer to the car-
5 cinogen was not a substantial contributing fac-
6 tor in the death or disability of the public safety
7 officer.

8 “(3) ADDITIONAL EXPOSURE-RELATED CAN-
9 CERS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—From time to time
11 but not less frequently than once every 3 years,
12 the Director shall—

13 “(i) review the definition of ‘exposure-
14 related cancer’ under paragraph (1); and

15 “(ii) if appropriate, update the defini-
16 tion, in accordance with this paragraph—

17 “(I) by rule; or

18 “(II) by publication in the Fed-
19 eral Register or on the public website
20 of the Bureau.

21 “(B) BASIS FOR UPDATES.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
23 make an update under subparagraph
24 (A)(ii) in any case in which the Director
25 finds such an update to be appropriate

1 based on competent medical evidence of
2 significant risk to public safety officers of
3 developing the form of exposure-related
4 cancer that is the subject of the update
5 from engagement in their public safety ac-
6 tivities.

7 “(ii) EVIDENCE.—The competent
8 medical evidence described in clause (i)
9 may include recommendations, risk assess-
10 ments, and scientific studies by—

11 “(I) the National Institute for
12 Occupational Safety and Health;

13 “(II) the National Toxicology
14 Program;

15 “(III) the National Academies of
16 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine;
17 or

18 “(IV) the International Agency
19 for Research on Cancer.

20 “(C) PETITIONS TO ADD TO THE LIST OF
21 EXPOSURE-RELATED CANCERS.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Any person may
23 petition the Director to add a form of can-
24 cer to the definition of ‘exposure-related
25 cancer’ under paragraph (1).

1 “(ii) CONTENT OF PETITION.—A peti-
2 tion under clause (i) shall provide informa-
3 tion to show that there is sufficient com-
4 petent medical evidence of significant risk
5 to public safety officers of developing the
6 cancer from engagement in their public
7 safety activities.

8 “(iii) TIMELY AND SUBSTANTIVE DE-
9 CISIONS.—

10 “(I) REFERRAL.—Not later than
11 180 days after receipt of a petition
12 satisfying clause (ii), the Director
13 shall refer the petition to appropriate
14 medical experts for review, analysis
15 (including risk assessment and sci-
16 entific study), and recommendation.

17 “(II) CONSIDERATION.—The Di-
18 rector shall consider each rec-
19 ommendation under subclause (I) and
20 promptly take appropriate action in
21 connection with the recommendation
22 pursuant to subparagraph (B).

23 “(iv) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—
24 Not later than 30 days after taking any
25 substantive action in connection with a rec-

ommendation under clause (iii)(II), the Director shall notify the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives of the substantive action.”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to any claim under—

(A) section 1201(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(a)) that is predicated upon the death of a public safety officer on or after January 1, 2020, that is the direct and proximate result of an exposure-related cancer; or

(B) section 1201(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)) that is filed on or after January 1, 2020, and predicated upon a disability that is the direct and proximate result of an exposure-related cancer.

(3) TIME FOR FILING CLAIM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who desires to file a claim that is predicated upon the amendment made by paragraph (1) shall not be precluded

1 from filing such a claim within 3 years of the date
2 of enactment of this Act.

3 (b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 812(a) of title I of
5 the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
6 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10231(a)) is amended—

7 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “fur-
8 nished under this title by any person and iden-
9 tifiable to any specific private person” and in-
10 sserting “furnished under any law to any compo-
11 nent of the Office of Justice Programs, or fur-
12 nished otherwise under this title, by any entity
13 or person, including any information identifi-
14 able to any specific private person,”; and

15 (B) in the second sentence, by striking
16 “person furnishing such information” and in-
17 sserting “entity or person furnishing such infor-
18 mation or to whom such information pertains”.

19 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—The
20 amendments made by paragraph (1) shall—

21 (A) shall take effect for all purposes as if
22 enacted on December 27, 1979; and

23 (B) apply to any matter pending, before
24 the Department of Justice or otherwise, as of
25 the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1201(o)(2) of title I
3 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act
4 of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(o)(2)) is amended—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or
6 (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or
8 (b)” after “subsection (a)”; and

9 (C) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or
10 (b)” after “subsection (a)”.

11 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made
12 by paragraph (1) shall apply to any matter pending
13 before the Department of Justice as of the date of
14 enactment of this Act.

15 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Safeguarding
17 America’s First Responders Act of 2020 (34 U.S.C.
18 10281 note) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘line of
21 duty action’ includes any action—

22 “(1) in which a public safety officer engaged at
23 the direction of the agency served by the public safe-
24 ty officer; or

1 “(2) the public safety officer is authorized or
2 obligated to perform.”.

3 (b) APPLICABILITY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by
5 subsection (a) shall apply to any claim under section
6 3 of the Safeguarding America’s First Responders
7 Act of 2020 (34 U.S.C. 10281 note)—

8 (A) that is predicated upon the death of a
9 public safety officer on or after January 1,
10 2020; or

11 (B) that is—

12 (i) predicated upon the disability of a
13 public safety officer; and

14 (ii) filed on or after January 1, 2020.

15 (2) TIME FOR FILING CLAIM.—Notwithstanding
16 any other provision of law, an individual who desires
17 to file a claim that is predicated upon the amend-
18 ment made by subsection (a) shall not be precluded
19 from filing such a claim within 3 years of the date
20 of enactment of this Act.

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