

H.R. _____ the “Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act of 2020”
Section-by-Section Explanation

SECTION. 1. SHORT TITLE. Section 1 sets forth the name of the bill as the “Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act of 2020.”

SEC. 2. DEATH AND DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS IMPACTED BY COVID-19. Section 2 establishes that a diagnosis for COVID-19 shall be presumed to constitute a personal injury in the line of duty for the purposes of eligibility for the Police Safety Officers’ Benefit (PSOB) program, unless the officer was not on duty during the 45-day period prior to being diagnosed with COVID-19.

In creating subsection (o)(2) of 18 USC 10281, directs the Attorney General to accept claims, including supplemental claims, for the PSOB program, from public safety officers who were injured or disabled in the line of duty during or in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks and later were diagnosed with COVID-19 which, in combination with the injury or disability developed on account of their September 11th service, rendered the officers permanently and totally disabled or directly and proximately resulted in the death of the officers. For claims authorized by this subsection, the bill applies the COVID-19 “in the line of duty” presumption described in this section.

In creating subsection (o)(3), limits the applicability of the bill to a diagnosis of COVID-19 beginning on January 20, 2020, and ending on the date that is one year after the President declares the emergency period over.

In creating subsection (p), establishes the disability standard for COVID-19-related disability and death claims. Pursuant to this subparagraph, the Attorney General’s evaluation of claims shall be limited to determining whether a PSOB claimant is permanently prevented from performing any gainful work as a public safety officer on account of their COVID-19 diagnosis.