

1 S.89

2 An act relating to expanding survivor benefits

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 3171 is amended to read:

5 § 3171. DEFINITIONS

6 As used in this chapter:

7 * * *

8 (3) “Emergency personnel” means:

9 (A) firefighters as defined in subdivision 3151(3) of this title; ~~and~~

10 (B) emergency medical personnel and volunteer personnel as defined
11 in 24 V.S.A. § 2651;

12 (C) law enforcement officers who have been certified by the Vermont
13 Criminal Justice Council pursuant to section 2358 of this title;

14 (D) facility employees of the Department of Corrections and
15 Department of Corrections employees who provide direct security and
16 treatment services to offenders under supervision in the community;

17 (E) classified family services employees in the Family Services
18 Division of the Department for Children and Families; and

19 (F) classified medical employees of State-operated therapeutic
20 community residences or inpatient psychiatric hospital units.

1 (4) “Line of duty” means:

2 (A) ~~answering or returning from~~ with respect to firefighters,
3 emergency medical personnel, and volunteer personnel:

4 (i) service in answer to a call of the department or service for a
5 fire or emergency or, including going to and returning from a fire or
6 emergency or participating in a fire or emergency training drill; or

7 ~~(B)(ii)~~ similar service in another town or district to which the
8 department or service has been called for firefighting or emergency purposes;

9 (B) with respect to law enforcement officers:

10 (i) service as a law enforcement officer in answer to a complaint
11 lodged with the department or in response to a disorder, including going to,
12 returning from, and investigating or responding to the complaint or disorder; or

13 (ii) service under orders from the department or in any emergency
14 for which the law enforcement officer serves as a law enforcement officer;

15 (C) with respect to covered employees of the Department of
16 Corrections, discharging their duties as employees;

17 (D) with respect to classified family services employees in the
18 Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families,
19 discharging their duties as employees; and

1 by the Emergency Board when the General Assembly is not in session, and
2 contributions or donations from any other source. Expenses incurred pursuant
3 to subdivision 3172(a)(3) of this chapter shall be paid from the Fund. All
4 balances in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward.
5 Interest earned shall remain in the Fund.

6 (b) In the event that the balance of the Fund is insufficient to pay monetary
7 benefits awarded by the Board when the General Assembly is not in session,
8 the Emergency Board may, pursuant to its authority under 32 V.S.A. § 133,
9 transfer into the Fund additional amounts necessary to pay the monetary
10 benefits.

11 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.