

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2944

To require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers' Benefit program,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2016

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers'
Benefit program, 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 “Public Safety Officers’
5 Benefits Improvement Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORTS.**

7 Section 1205 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control
8 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796c) is amend-
9 ed—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “Rules, regu-
 2 lations, and procedures issued under this part may
 3 include regulations based on standards developed by
 4 another Federal agency for programs related to pub-
 5 lic safety officer death or disability claims.” after
 6 “before the Bureau.”;

7 (2) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “In making”;
 9 and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(2) In making a determination under section 1201,
 12 the Bureau shall give substantial weight to the evidence
 13 and all findings of fact presented by a State, local, or Fed-
 14 eral administrative or investigative agency regarding eligi-
 15 bility for death or disability benefits.”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(e)(1)(A) Not later than 30 days after the date of
 18 enactment of this subsection, the Bureau shall make avail-
 19 able on the public website of the Bureau information on
 20 all death, disability, and educational assistance claims sub-
 21 mitted under this part that are pending as of the date
 22 on which the information is made available.

23 “(B) Not less frequently than once per week, the Bu-
 24 reau shall make available on the public website of the Bu-
 25 reau updated information with respect to all death, dis-

1 ability, and educational assistance claims submitted under
2 this part that are pending as of the date on which the
3 information is made available.

4 “(C) The information made available under this para-
5 graph shall include—

6 “(i) for each pending claim—

7 “(I) the date on which the claim was sub-
8 mitted to the Bureau;

9 “(II) the State of residence of the claim-
10 ant;

11 “(III) an anonymized, identifying claim
12 number; and

13 “(IV) the nature of the claim; and

14 “(ii) the total number of pending claims that
15 were submitted to the Bureau more than 1 year be-
16 fore the date on which the information is made
17 available.

18 “(2)(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of
19 enactment of this subsection, and every 180 days there-
20 after, the Bureau shall submit to Congress a report on
21 the death, disability, and educational assistance claims
22 submitted under this part during the 180-day period pre-
23 ceding the report.

24 “(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A)
25 shall include information on—

1 “(i) the total number of claims, and the nature
2 of each claim, submitted to the Bureau;

3 “(ii) the number of claims for which a final de-
4 termination has been made;

5 “(iii) the number of claims for which a final de-
6 termination has not been reached and the basis for
7 the delay;

8 “(iv) the amount of time required to process
9 each claim for which a final determination has been
10 made and, for any claim which could not be proc-
11 essed within 1 year of being submitted to the Bu-
12 reau, the basis for any delay;

13 “(v) the number of claims submitted that are
14 related to exposure due to the September 11th,
15 2001, terrorism attacks and the average award
16 amount for any such claims for which a final deter-
17 mination has been made;

18 “(vi) the result of each claim, including the
19 number of claims rejected and the basis for any de-
20 nial of benefits;

21 “(vii) the number of claims that were appealed;

22 “(viii) the number of claims processed per re-
23 viewer of the Bureau; and

1 “(ix) the average amount of time each agency
2 takes to submit all required information and docu-
3 ments to the Bureau.

4 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘nature of the claim’
5 means whether the claim is a claim for—

6 “(A) benefits under this subpart with respect to
7 the death of a public safety officer;

8 “(B) benefits under this subpart with respect to
9 the disability of a public safety officer; or

10 “(C) education assistance under subpart 2.”.

○