

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6509

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer death and disability benefits for certain public safety officers who contract COVID-19, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2020

Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer death and disability benefits for certain public safety officers who contract COVID-19, 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 Officer  
5 Pandemic Response Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEATH AND DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC**  
2 **SAFETY OFFICERS IMPACTED BY COVID-19.**

3 Section 1201 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
4 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281) is amended by  
5 adding at the end the following new subsection:

6 “(o) For purposes of this part:

7 “(1) COVID-19 shall be presumed to constitute  
8 a personal injury within the meaning of subsection  
9 (a), sustained in the line of duty by a public safety  
10 officer and directly and proximately resulting in  
11 death, unless such officer was not on duty during  
12 the 45-day period prior to being diagnosed with  
13 COVID-19.

14 “(2) The Attorney General shall accept claims,  
15 including supplemental claims, under this section  
16 from an individual who—

17 “(A) was serving as a public safety officer  
18 and was injured or disabled in the line of duty  
19 as a result of the terrorist attacks on the  
20 United States that occurred on September 11,  
21 2001, or in the aftermath of such attacks devel-  
22 oped a condition described in section 3312(a) of  
23 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
24 300mm–22(a)); and

25 “(B) was diagnosed with COVID-19 dur-  
26 ing the period described in paragraph (3),

1           which, in combination with the injury or dis-  
2           ability described in subparagraph (A), perma-  
3           nently and totally disabled or directly and  
4           proximately resulted in the death of the indi-  
5           vidual.

6           In assessing a claim under this paragraph, the pre-  
7           sumption of causation described in paragraph (1)  
8           shall apply.

9           “(3) The presumption described in paragraph  
10          (1) shall apply with respect to a diagnosis of  
11          COVID-19 beginning on January 20, 2020, and  
12          ending on the date that is one year after the emer-  
13          gency period (as such term is defined in section  
14          1135(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
15          1320b-5(g))) based on the COVID-19 public health  
16          emergency ends.

17          “(p) In determining whether the personal injury re-  
18          sulting from COVID-19 was a catastrophic injury, the At-  
19          torney General’s inquiry shall be limited to whether the  
20          individual is permanently prevented from performing any  
21          gainful work as a public safety officer.”.

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