

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6509

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 1, 2020

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Public Safety Officer
3 Pandemic Response Act of 2020”.

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

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

9 “(o) For purposes of this part:

10 “(1) COVID–19 (or complications therefrom)
11 shall be presumed to constitute a personal injury
12 within the meaning of subsection (a), sustained in
13 the line of duty by a public safety officer and di-
14 rectly and proximately resulting in death, in the case
15 of a public safety officer who was diagnosed with,
16 who received a positive test for, or for whom evi-
17 dence indicated that the officer was infected with,
18 COVID–19, unless such officer was not on duty dur-
19 ing the 45-day period prior to being diagnosed with
20 or having positive test for COVID–19.

21 “(2) The Attorney General shall accept claims,
22 including supplemental claims, under this section
23 from an individual who—

24 “(A) was serving as a public safety officer
25 and was injured or disabled in the line of duty
26 as a result of the terrorist attacks on the

1 United States that occurred on September 11,
2 2001, or in the aftermath of such attacks devel-
3 oped a condition described in section 3312(a) of
4 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
5 300mm–22(a)); and

6 “(B) was diagnosed with COVID–19 dur-
7 ing the period described in paragraph (3),
8 which, in combination with the injury or dis-
9 ability described in subparagraph (A), perma-
10 nently and totally disabled or directly and
11 proximately resulted in the death of the indi-
12 vidual.

13 In assessing a claim under this paragraph, the pre-
14 sumption of causation described in paragraph (1)
15 shall apply.

16 “(3) The presumption described in paragraph
17 (1) and standard in subsection (p) shall apply with
18 respect to a diagnosis of COVID–19 (or complica-
19 tions therefrom) beginning on January 20, 2020,
20 and ending on January 20, 2022.

21 “(4) The term ‘COVID–19’ means a disease
22 caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome
23 coronavirus 2 (SARS–CoV–2).

24 “(p) In determining whether the personal injury
25 under subsection (b) resulting from COVID-19 (or com-

