

PN1698 NAVY nomination of Michael G. Matson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 16, 2020.

PN1699 NAVY nomination of Kevan M. Mellendick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 16, 2020.

PN1700 NAVY nomination of Andrew S. Morris, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 16, 2020.

PN1701 NAVY nomination of Andrew D. Cordrey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 16, 2020.

PN1702 NAVY nomination of Nicholas R. Leinweber, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 16, 2020.

PN1703 NAVY nomination of Sean A. McKay, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 16, 2020.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

SAFEGUARDING AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS ACT OF 2020

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3607.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3607) to extend public safety officer death benefits to public safety officers whose death is caused by COVID-19, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley-Booker amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1587) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

In section 2(a)(5), strike “deaths resulting from infectious disease sustained by public safety officers in carrying out their duties, the determination of claims may” and insert “deaths and permanent and total disabilities resulting from infectious disease sustained by public safety officers in carrying out their duties, the determination of claims involving personal injuries believed to have resulted from COVID-19 or its complications may”.

In section 3, strike “As determined” and insert “(a) DEATH BENEFITS.—As determined”.

At the end of section 3, add the following:

(b) DISABILITY BENEFITS.—As determined by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, COVID-19 (or complications therefrom) suffered by a public safety officer shall be presumed to constitute a personal injury within the meaning of section 1201(b) of title I of the

Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)), sustained in the line of duty by the officer, if—

(1) the officer engaged in a line of duty action or activity between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021; and

(2) the officer was diagnosed with COVID-19 (or evidence indicates that the officer had COVID-19) during the 45-day period beginning on the last day of duty of the officer.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3607), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 3607

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Safeguarding America’s First Responders Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS; PURPOSE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) an infectious disease pandemic known as COVID-19 exists;

(2) to date, there is much still unknown about COVID-19, but it is known that COVID-19 and related complications may be fatal;

(3) services provided by public safety officers are nonetheless essential during this pandemic;

(4) due to the COVID-19 pandemic and what is currently known about how the disease is spread, public safety officers are uncharacteristically at risk of contracting the disease; and

(5) although the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program currently covers deaths and permanent and total disabilities resulting from infectious disease sustained by public safety officers in carrying out their duties, the determination of claims involving personal injuries believed to have resulted from COVID-19 or its complications may be uniquely challenging or delayed given the lack of—

(A) definitive testing and medical records at this time; and

(B) a definitive uniform body of medical information about how the disease is spread or its effects.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish a carefully drawn framework wherein claims under the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program, arising under the unique circumstances described in subsection (a), can be processed expeditiously and under fair and clear standards.

SEC. 3. PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS.

(a) DEATH BENEFITS.—As determined by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, unless competent medical evidence establishes that the death of a public safety officer (as defined in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284)) was directly and proximately caused by something other than COVID-19, COVID-19 (or complications therefrom) suffered by the public safety officer shall be presumed to constitute a personal injury within the meaning of section 1201(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(a)), sustained in the line of duty by the officer and directly and proximately resulting in death, if—

(1) the officer engaged in a line of duty action or activity between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021;

(2) the officer was diagnosed with COVID-19 (or evidence indicates that the officer had COVID-19) during the 45-day period beginning on the last day of duty of the officer; and

(3) evidence indicates that the officer had COVID-19 (or complications therefrom) at the time of the officer’s death.

(b) DISABILITY BENEFITS.—As determined by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, COVID-19 (or complications therefrom) suffered by a public safety officer shall be presumed to constitute a personal injury within the meaning of section 1201(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)), sustained in the line of duty by the officer, if—

(1) the officer engaged in a line of duty action or activity between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021; and

(2) the officer was diagnosed with COVID-19 (or evidence indicates that the officer had COVID-19) during the 45-day period beginning on the last day of duty of the officer.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIDENTIALITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3434 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3434) to make Federal law enforcement officer peer support communications confidential, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3434) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3434

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Confidentiality Opportunities for Peer Support Counseling Act” or the “COPS Counseling Act”.

SEC. 2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PEER SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term “law enforcement agency” means a Federal agency that employs a law enforcement officer.

(2) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “law enforcement officer” has the meaning