

HR 5743

Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvement Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jul 12, 2016

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. (Jul 27, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5743>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]

Party: Republican • State: NY • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Jul 12, 2016
Rep. Reichert, David G. [R-WA-8]	R · WA		Jul 12, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 27, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2944	Related bill	Dec 22, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvement Act of 2016

This bill amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to revise requirements for the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program. (The PSOB program provides death, disability, and education benefits to public safety officers and survivors of public safety officers who are killed or injured in the line of duty.)

It authorizes the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to establish PSOB program rules, regulations, and procedures based on standards developed by another federal agency.

In determining a claimant's eligibility for death or disability benefits, the BJA must give substantial weight to evidence and facts presented by a state, local, or federal agency.

The BJA must also publish and update information on pending claims and report to Congress on submitted claims for death, disability, and educational benefits.

This section extends the age limitation for a PSOB claim for death, disability, or education benefits that is approved more than one year after the date on which it was filed.

The BJA must attempt to obtain necessary documentation to determine a claimant's eligibility for death, disability, or education benefits. If it cannot determine eligibility due to a lack of documentation from a third party (e.g., a public agency), then the BJA may abandon the claim only after it utilizes investigative tools, including subpoenas, to obtain the information.

The bill establishes a rebuttable presumption that a public safety officer acted properly at the time of injury or death and that no specified limitation (e.g., voluntary intoxication at the time of injury or death) bars the payment of death or disability benefits. The BJA may rebut the presumption by clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 27, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Jul 12, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 12, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.