

HR 2812

Protecting America's First Responders Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: May 16, 2019

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. (Jun 26, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2812>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (44 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		May 16, 2019
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		May 16, 2019
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		May 16, 2019
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		May 16, 2019
Rep. Mullin, Markwayne [R-OK-2]	R · OK		May 16, 2019
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		May 16, 2019
Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4]	R · FL		May 16, 2019
Rep. Cuellar, Henry [D-TX-28]	D · TX		Jun 4, 2019
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Jun 4, 2019
Rep. Hill, Katie [D-CA-25]	D · CA		Jun 4, 2019
Rep. Rouda, Harley [D-CA-48]	D · CA		Jun 10, 2019
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Jun 10, 2019
Rep. Kustoff, David [R-TN-8]	R · TN		Jun 18, 2019
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Craig, Angie [D-MN-2]	D · MN		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5]	D · PA		Jun 27, 2019
Rep. Axne, Cynthia [D-IA-3]	D · IA		Jul 12, 2019
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Jul 12, 2019
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Aug 9, 2019
Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]	R · NY		Aug 9, 2019
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Aug 20, 2019
Rep. Malinowski, Tom [D-NJ-7]	D · NJ		Aug 20, 2019
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]	D · CO		Aug 20, 2019
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Oct 1, 2019
Rep. McBath, Lucy [D-GA-6]	D · GA		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Oct 15, 2019
Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-8]	D · MI		Oct 17, 2019
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Oct 23, 2019
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Oct 23, 2019
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Oct 29, 2019
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Oct 30, 2019
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		Nov 1, 2019
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Dec 4, 2019
Rep. Luria, Elaine G. [D-VA-2]	D · VA		Dec 11, 2019

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Finkenauer, Abby [D-IA-1]	D · IA		Jan 9, 2020
Rep. Stauber, Pete [R-MN-8]	R · MN		Jan 9, 2020
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jan 16, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 26, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2709	Related bill	Jun 26, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
116 S 1208	Related bill	May 31, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Summary (as of May 16, 2019)

Protecting America's First Responders Act

This bill revises the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program. That 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.

Specifically, it revises the payment amount of disability benefits for claims pending more than one year. The amount must be based on the date of the adjudication of such claim rather than the date of the injury. It also increases the interim benefit payment amount and adjusts it based on the Consumer Price Index.

Additionally, the payment amount of death benefits must be the greater of (1) the amount payable as of the date of the public safety officer's death, or (2) the amount payable based on the date of the adjudication of the claim. Currently, such amount is based only on the date of death.

Next, the bill includes within the definition of *firefighter* for purposes of benefits an individual whose primary duty during an emergency response is to secure the scene or manage traffic.

Further, the bill allows applicants who were denied benefits in the previous three years to reapply for benefits.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance of the Department of Justice (DOJ) must use all available investigative tools, including subpoenas, to (1) expedite the processing of a claimant's eligibility for a death, disability, or education benefit; and (2) obtain necessary information from third parties (e.g., public agencies).

Finally, DOJ must provide retroactive educational assistance to eligible survivors of public safety officer.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 26, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- **May 16, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **May 16, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.