

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: H1/28/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1157

By: Representative Davis

By: Senator Rice

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE AWARDING OF FLAGS TO FAMILIES OF CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO LOSE THEIR LIVES IN THE COURSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE THE AWARDING OF FLAGS TO FAMILIES OF CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO LOSE THEIR LIVES IN THE COURSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 6, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 5 – State Law Enforcement Agencies

12-6-501. Award of flags.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “In the course of employment” means at any time when a law enforcement officer is on duty as a law enforcement officer or is performing an act ordinarily performed by a law enforcement officer although the law enforcement officer is not actually on duty at the time;

(2) “Law enforcement officer” means a public servant employed by a state law enforcement agency and vested by law with a duty to maintain



order or to make arrests for offenses; and

(3) "State law enforcement agency" means a state agency that is responsible for enforcing the criminal laws, traffic laws, highway laws, or game and fish laws of this state.

(b)(1) A state law enforcement agency may award one (1) United States flag to the family of a law enforcement officer who lost his or her life in the course of employment with the state law enforcement agency.

(2) As used in this subsection, "family" means "family" as defined in the rules or procedures of the state law enforcement agency.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that law enforcement officers risk their lives every day in the course of their employment; that the state values the dedication and efforts of these law enforcement officers; that the safety and well-being of Arkansas citizens depend on the ability and willingness of men and women to serve in state law enforcement agencies; and that this act is immediately necessary because it is in the state's best interests to do everything possible to encourage and recognize service in state law enforcement agencies without delay. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/Davis

APPROVED: 02/18/2015