

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 6509, with an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6509

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2020

Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

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

6 “(o) For purposes of this part:

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

18 “(2) The Attorney General shall accept claims,
19 including supplemental claims, under this section
20 from an individual who—

21 “(A) was serving as a public safety officer
22 and was injured or disabled in the line of duty
23 as a result of the terrorist attacks on the
24 United States that occurred on September 11,
25 2001, or in the aftermath of such attacks devel-
26 oped a condition described in section 3312(a) of

1 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
2 300mm–22(a)); and

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

10 In assessing a claim under this paragraph, the pre-
11 sumption of causation described in paragraph (1)
12 shall apply.

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

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

21 “(p) In determining whether the personal injury
22 under subsection (b) resulting from COVID-19 (or com-
23 plications therefrom) was a catastrophic injury, the Attor-
24 ney General’s inquiry shall apply the presumption in sub-
25 section (o) and be limited to whether the individual is per-

1 manently prevented from performing any gainful work as
2 a public safety officer.”.

3 **SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

4 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
5 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
6 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
7 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” or this
8 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
9 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
10 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
11 vote on passage.