



# HOUSE BILL 283: Conner's Law.

**This Bill Analysis  
reflects the contents  
of the bill as it was  
presented in  
committee.**

2019-2020 General Assembly

|                       |   |                     |                |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Committee:</b>     | House Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | <b>Date:</b>        | March 13, 2019 |
| <b>Introduced by:</b> | Reps. Jones, Bell, Moore, Hastings  | <b>Prepared by:</b> | Susan Sitze    |
| <b>Analysis of:</b>   | First Edition   |                     | Staff Attorney |

**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 283 would increase the punishment for assault with a firearm on a law enforcement officer, probation officer, or parole officer and would provide an additional death benefit for public safety employees who are murdered in the line of duty.*

### CURRENT LAW:

Article 12A of Chapter 143 provides death benefits for public safety employees.

A "covered person" includes:

- Firefighters
- Law enforcement officers
- Noncustodial employees of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety
- Rescue squad workers
- Senior Civil Air Patrol members

### BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 1** would increase the penalty for assault with a firearm upon a law enforcement officer, probation officer, or parole officer while the officer is in the performance of his or her duties to a Class D felony. This section would become effective December 1, 2019, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

**Section 2** would amend the Public Safety Employees' Death Benefit Act to provide an additional death benefit of \$100,000 when any covered person is murdered in the line of duty. "Murdered in the line of duty" is defined as "killed in the line of duty in a manner reasonably determined by the Industrial Commission to be directly caused by the intentional harmful act of another person." The death benefit would be paid to the surviving spouse, dependent child, dependent parent, or the estate of the deceased covered person. This section would become effective retroactively to July 1, 2017, and apply to qualifying deaths occurring on or after that date.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as otherwise provided, this act would be effective when it becomes law.

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Director



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