

No. 1990-168

AN ACT

SB 1773

Providing for a flag for firefighters who have died in the line of duty; providing for responsibility of the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner; and making an appropriation from contributions.

The General Assembly hereby enacts on behalf of all Commonwealth citizens this legislation to honor firefighters who have died in the line of duty. The provision of this flag is a small but important act by Commonwealth government to signify its thanks and recognition for the sacrifice of a life in service to the citizens of this Commonwealth.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Firefighters' Memorial Flag.

(a) Establishment.—There is hereby established a Firefighters' Memorial Flag for this Commonwealth.

(b) Description.—The flag established in subsection (a) shall be a field of blue with a gold keystone in the center which surrounds a Maltese cross, and, at the bottom of the blue field, in gold capital letters, there is shown the phrase, "Lest We Forget."

Section 2. Use of flag.

The Firefighters' Memorial Flag may be displayed over firefighters' memorials, firefighter funeral processions and from the poles of any public ground or political subdivision for a period of not more than seven days after the death of a firefighter, and as further directed by the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner.

Section 3. Agency responsibility.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, through the Office of the Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner, shall maintain the official flag and have the responsibility to implement the provisions of this act and oversee the production, acquisition and distribution of the flag.

Section 4. Limitation.

Authorized utilization of the Firefighters' Memorial Flag by the Commonwealth or an entity thereof shall not constitute a presumption of eligibility nor be permissible as substantiating evidence for claims filed under the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L.424, No.101), referred to as the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act.

Section 5. Appropriation.

The moneys necessary for the production, acquisition and distribution of the Firefighters' Memorial Flag in the first year shall be paid from the initial line item appropriation of \$10,000 in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's budget appropriation with subsequent appropriations periodically requested as additional funds are required for this stated purpose to

support memorializing firefighters in this Commonwealth. Such funds are to be allocated to a segregated account maintained by the State Fire Commissioner.

Section 6. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 7th day of December, A. D. 1990.

ROBERT P. CASEY