

By: Representative Read

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1427
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE
2 FIGHTERS PREMIUM PAY PROGRAM" TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT
3 OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO LAW
4 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS AS PREMIUM PAY FOR THEIR
5 EFFORTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** The federal COVID-19 public health emergency
8 continues to create significant exposure and risk to law
9 enforcement officers and fire fighters in the State of
10 Mississippi. American Rescue Plan Act funds are specifically
11 targeted toward assisting with premium pay for such public safety
12 workers. The program created in this act provides for necessary
13 expenditures related to COVID-19, the purpose of which is to
14 provide law enforcement officers and fire fighters with premium
15 pay for their heightened risk during the ongoing federal COVID-19
16 public health emergency.

17 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is created the "Mississippi Law
18 Enforcement and Fire Fighters Premium Pay Program," which shall be
19 administered by the Department of Public Safety to provide premium



20 pay to those law enforcement officers and fire fighters in the
21 State of Mississippi as provided for in subsection (2) of this
22 section. Monies disbursed by the Department of Public Safety
23 under this section shall be disbursed in compliance with all
24 requirements and/or conditions on funds appropriated from the
25 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the program established
26 under this section.

27 (2) The program shall be funded from monies appropriated by
28 the Legislature from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund
29 for that purpose. The Department of Public Safety shall
30 distribute the monies for the program in accordance with the
31 following:

32 (a) One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) of premium pay
33 shall be paid to each eligible individual.

34 (b) Eligible individuals are all certified, full-time
35 and part-time law enforcement officers and certified, full-time
36 and part-time fire fighters who are serving in the State of
37 Mississippi on the effective date of this act, except those
38 excluded under paragraph (c) of this subsection (2). If a person
39 is an eligible individual in more than one (1) position covered
40 under this paragraph, that person shall only be eligible for one
41 (1) payment of premium pay under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

42 (c) Any law enforcement officer who received hazard pay
43 from the Governor's discretionary funds authorized by the



44 Legislature from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic
45 Security Act is not eligible to receive monies under this act.

46 (d) The department also shall distribute monies to
47 counties, municipalities and other governmental entities that,
48 before the effective date of this act, paid premium pay to law
49 enforcement officers and fire fighters employed by them from funds
50 received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act, to reimburse
51 those governmental entities for not more than One Thousand Dollars
52 (\$1,000.00) of the amount of premium pay that the governmental
53 entity paid to each recipient.

54 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after July 1, 2022.

