



## SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

### Senate Bill 889 Printer's No. 1053

Prime Sponsor: Baker  
Committee: Labor and Industry

---

#### **SYNOPSIS:**

SB 889 extends benefits under the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law (also known as the Heart and Lung Act) to enforcement officers and investigators of both the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC).

#### **SUMMARY:**

Under the Heart and Lung Act, certain enumerated enforcement officers are provided temporary salary (at the enforcement officer's full rate) as well as medical and hospital expenses, if those enforcement officers are injured or if they contract certain diseases while performing official duties. Those enforcement officers currently covered by the Heart and Lung Act include:

- Members of the State Police
- PLCB enforcement officers and investigators
- Parole agents, enforcement officers and investigators of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole
- Capitol Police Officers
- Corrections employees
- Psychiatric security aides
- Drug enforcement agents and special agents of the Office of Attorney General
- Members of the Delaware River Port Authority
- Policeman, fireman or park guards employed by a county, borough, town, or township
- Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs

Under SB 889, the benefits of the Heart and Lung Act will be extended to any enforcement officer or investigator of the PGC or the PFBC.

All payments authorized by the Heart and Lung Act to any enforcement officer shall be paid for out of appropriations of either (i) the Commonwealth, (ii) the Delaware River Port Authority, or (iii) a county, city, borough, town or township, as appropriate.

No absence of any enforcement officer during an injury covered by the Heart and Lung Act shall reduce the usual sick leave of that enforcement officer.

Any workers' compensation benefits paid to enforcement officers and investigators of the PGC and the PFBC, while those enforcement officers are being paid salaries by the Commonwealth under the Heart

and Lung Act, shall be turned over to the Commonwealth (there is a similar provision in the current law relating to all other enumerated enforcement officers).

As is the case with the other enumerated enforcement officers, enforcement officers of the PGC and the PFBC will qualify, after 4 consecutive years of service, for compensation under the Heart and Lung Act for certain diseases of the heart and of the respiratory system.

Finally, for any enforcement officer receiving benefits under the Heart and Lung Act, certain statute of limitations that apply to Workers' Compensation claims shall not begin to run until after the expiration of the receipt of benefits under the Heart and Lung Act.

Effective Date: 60 days

**BILL HISTORY:**

PN 1053 Referred to LABOR AND INDUSTRY, June 16, 2015

Prepared by: Cortez 6/25/2015