

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: H1/28/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1157

5 By: Representative Davis
6 By: Senator Rice
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE AWARDING OF FLAGS TO FAMILIES
10 OF CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO LOSE THEIR
11 LIVES IN THE COURSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT; TO DECLARE
12 AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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15 **Subtitle**

16 TO AUTHORIZE THE AWARDING OF FLAGS TO
17 FAMILIES OF CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT
18 OFFICERS WHO LOSE THEIR LIVES IN THE
19 COURSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT; AND TO
20 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 6, is amended to add an
26 additional subchapter to read as follows:

27 Subchapter 5 – State Law Enforcement Agencies
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29 12-6-501. Award of flags.

30 (a) As used in this section:

31 (1) “In the course of employment” means at any time when a law
32 enforcement officer is on duty as a law enforcement officer or is performing
33 an act ordinarily performed by a law enforcement officer although the law
34 enforcement officer is not actually on duty at the time;

35 (2) “Law enforcement officer” means a public servant employed by
36 a state law enforcement agency and vested by law with a duty to maintain



1 order or to make arrests for offenses; and

2 (3) "State law enforcement agency" means a state agency that is
3 responsible for enforcing the criminal laws, traffic laws, highway laws, or
4 game and fish laws of this state.

5 (b)(1) A state law enforcement agency may award one (1) United States
6 flag to the family of a law enforcement officer who lost his or her life in
7 the course of employment with the state law enforcement agency.

8 (2) As used in this subsection, "family" means "family" as
9 defined in the rules or procedures of the state law enforcement agency.

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11 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
12 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that law enforcement officers risk
13 their lives every day in the course of their employment; that the state
14 values the dedication and efforts of these law enforcement officers; that the
15 safety and well-being of Arkansas citizens depend on the ability and
16 willingness of men and women to serve in state law enforcement agencies; and
17 that this act is immediately necessary because it is in the state's best
18 interests to do everything possible to encourage and recognize service in
19 state law enforcement agencies without delay. Therefore, an emergency is
20 declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the
21 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
22 on:

23 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

24 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
25 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
26 bill; or

27 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
28 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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30 /s/Davis

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33 **APPROVED: 02/18/2015**