

Public Law 107–196  
107th Congress

An Act

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to ensure that chaplains killed in the line of duty receive public safety officer death benefits.

June 24, 2002  
[S. 2431]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Mychal Judge Police and Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers’ Benefit Act of 2002”.

**SEC. 2. BENEFITS FOR CHAPLAINS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (7) as (3) through (8), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) ‘chaplain’ includes any individual serving as an officially recognized or designated member of a legally organized volunteer fire department or legally organized police department, or an officially recognized or designated public employee of a legally organized fire or police department who was responding to a fire, rescue, or police emergency;” and

(3) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (8), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting after “firefighter,” the following: “as a chaplain.”

(b) ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES.—Section 1201(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3796(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(4) if there is no surviving spouse or surviving child, to the individual designated by such officer as beneficiary under such officer’s most recently executed life insurance policy, provided that such individual survived such officer; or”.

Mychal Judge  
Police and Fire  
Chaplains Public  
Safety Officers’  
Benefit Act of  
2002.  
42 USC 3711  
note.

Applicability.  
42 USC 3796  
note.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on September 11, 2001, and shall apply to injuries or deaths that occur in the line of duty on or after such date.

Approved June 24, 2002.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2431 (H.R. 3297):**

**HOUSE REPORTS:** No. 107-384 accompanying H.R. 3297 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 148 (2002):**

May 7, considered and passed Senate.  
June 11, considered and passed House.

