



HOUSE BILL 137: Gabe Torres Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Pensions and Retirement. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 6, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Crawford, Pyrtle, Paré, Roberson	Prepared by:	Stewart Sturkie
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 137 would expand the eligibility of an individual covered by the Public Safety Employees' Death Benefits Act (the Act), by covering individuals who are killed while responding to or returning from duty.*

CURRENT LAW: The Act currently provides eligibility for public safety personnel who are killed while they are:

- Enroute to, engaged in, or returning from training.
- Responding to, engaged in, or returning from a call by the department of which the individual is a member.
- Responding to, engaged in, or returning from a call for assistance from any department or organization within North Carolina, or within a service area that is contiguous to the borders of North Carolina and is served or aided by a department from within North Carolina.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 137 would increase coverage under the Act, by rewriting the definition of "Official Duties" to include the duties performed by an individual while they are enroute to, engaged in, or returning from duty. In effect, this would provide eligibility for public safety personnel who are killed while responding to, engaging in, or returning from their jobs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective when it becomes law and would apply to applicable deaths of covered persons occurring on or after that date.

BACKGROUND: On October 13, 2022, Officer Gabe Torres of the Raleigh Police Department was killed by an active shooter while he was traveling to work. Under the current law he was not considered to have been killed in the line of duty, and therefore his family could not receive benefits under the Act. The state eventually recognized the death of Officer Torres as a death in the line of duty, and his family received benefits.

Kara McCraw
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Legislative Analysis
Division