



CUMBERLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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LD 1114, An Act to Provide That Spouses and Children of Corrections Officers Who Die in the Line of Duty Receive a Pension

Good morning Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety committee.

My Name is Kevin Joyce and I am the Sheriff of Cumberland County. I am testifying in support of LD 1114, An Act to Provide That Spouses and Children of Corrections Officers Who Die in the Line of Duty Receive a Pension.

Corrections Officer Andrew Lansing, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Detention Officer Isaiah Patrick Bias, Ellis County TX Sheriff's Office and Corrections Officer Bradford McNew, Jacksonville County FL Sheriff's Office all have one thing in common. They all have been killed in the line of duty over the past 8 months. Just like law enforcement officers, they went to work and never came home.

Recently, one of my Lieutenants discovered a state statute that no one was aware of? No one knew that it existed, including members of our county executive office.

Likely, when the statute was approved decades ago, Title 30A §352 was an all-encompassing law that included everyone who worked at the Sheriff's Office. The law stipulated that if the Sheriff or his/her deputy died as a result an injury sustained in the line of duty, the County Commissioners the employee's family would receive a pension equal to half of the Sheriff or deputy's salary, but not less than \$1,000.00 annually.

At that time, decades ago, it was a Sheriff and their deputies that worked at the Sheriff's Office. As time has gone on, specific job descriptions have been placed into statute and into the various Sheriff's Office that have expanded beyond deputies. We now have job descriptions such as Corrections Officers, Court Security Officers, Civil Deputies and Deputy Sheriffs. Not only do we have these specific jobs within a Sheriff's Office, these job descriptions are now represented by collective bargaining agreements. When this law was placed into statute, the



deputy may have been responsible for civil process one day, working in the jail the next and doing law enforcement the day after that. But now, we have specific tasks and due to collective bargaining agreements, a deputy is associated with law enforcement and its duties specifically.

At a time when recruiting Corrections officers is incredibly difficult, this bill will add Corrections Officers to Title 30A §353, so that Corrections Officers will know that if they make the ultimate sacrifice, their death in the line of duty, their family will receive some benefit for their service and sacrifice.

Thank you and I hope that you will support LD 1114, An Act to Provide That Spouses and Children of Corrections Officers Who Die in the Line of Duty Receive a Pension.

I will be happy to take any questions.



Kevin Joyce, Sheriff
Cumberland County

