

subdivision of the State, any sheriff or deputy sheriff, any correctional officer, or any volunteer or professional firefighter or rescue squad member who is killed or dies in the performance of duties on or after January 1, 1980. The amount of the benefit shall be \$25,000.

(2) This sum shall be in addition to any:

(i) Workmen's compensation benefits; or

(ii) Proceeds of any form of life insurance, regardless of who paid the premiums on the insurance.

(c) The payments hereinabove provided for shall be made out of funds which the Governor may appropriate for that purpose in the State budget.

(d) The secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services may award a death benefit under this section under any of the following circumstances provided the decision is made on a case-by-case basis:

(1) If the decedent's death was caused by the decedent's intentional misconduct;

(2) If the decedent intended to bring about the decedent's death; or

(3) If the decedent's voluntary intoxication was the proximate cause of the decedent's death.

(e) Upon a determination by the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services that the benefit provided for in this section is to be paid, payment shall be made as follows:

(1) To a designated beneficiary;

(2) If there is no designated beneficiary, to the surviving spouse;

(3) If there is no designated beneficiary and if there is no surviving spouse, to the surviving child or children of the decedent in equal shares; [or]

(4) If there is no designated beneficiary, surviving spouse, or children, to the [estate] SURVIVING PARENT OR PARENTS, IF THE PARENT WAS A DEPENDENT AS DEFINED IN § 152 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE; OR

(5) IF THERE IS NO DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY, SURVIVING SPOUSE, CHILDREN, OR DEPENDENT PARENTS, TO THE ESTATE.