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February 04, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 21-I:29-a, II, the Department of Safety, Office of the Commissioner, requests authorization to disburse death benefits in the amount of $100,000 to Mrs. Shannon Frye, of Stark, New Hampshire, as the surviving spouse of deceased New Hampshire Fish and Game Conservation Officer Levi Frye as a result of his death on or about October 2, 2024. After an investigation, pursuant to RSA 21-I:29-a, I have determined that his death constitutes a line-of-duty death. Effective upon Governor and Council approval. Funding source: 100% General Funds.

EXPLANATION

Pursuant to RSA 21-I:29-a, this request is to disburse death benefits to the family of New Hampshire Fish and Game Conservation Officer Levi Frye, who died on October 2, 2024. The pertinent statute provides that:

> "[t]he commissioner of safety… shall obtain the available records related to the circumstances, cause, and manner of such death and the decedent's status as a…police officer…and shall make a determination of whether the death qualifies as a line-of-duty death and who is entitled to the death benefit."

RSA 21-I:29-a, III. At the time of his death, Conservation Officer Frye was employed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as a Conservation Officer. After reviewing the records gathered in the course of this investigation, I have determined that Conservation Officer Frye was killed in the line of duty, as defined in the statute:

> "Killed in the line of duty" means a death, including suicide, of a police officer…while in the performance of his or her duties as a result of incident, accident, or violence causing death or injuries which are the direct or proximate cause of death. Death by suicide shall be considered a work related cause of death. "Incident" shall include any death that is determined to be occupationally related by the worker's compensation insurance carrier, a self-insured worker's compensation plan, or by the labor commissioner for workers' compensation purposes pursuant to RSA 281-A.

RSA 21-I:29-a, I(f). Based on the preponderance of evidence presented to me, I have concluded that Conservation Officer Frye's death meets the definition of "killed in the line of duty," and therefore his family is entitled to the death benefit.

Pursuant to RSA 21-I:29-a II, in addition to any other benefits provided under this chapter, the State Treasurer shall pay a $100,000 death benefit to the family of a police officer killed in the line of duty. Pursuant to that statute, the Governor, with the consent of the Executive Council, is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner of Safety