

2023 Kansas Statutes

48-283. Death gratuity benefit; military service members; beneficiaries; adjutant general; adjutant general death gratuity payment facilitation fund. (a) The following findings and purpose apply to this section:

(1) The legislature finds that the federal government shutdown in 2013 delayed the payment of death gratuity benefits to the survivors of more than 25 United States service members and the legislature honors all service members who have died in service of their country; and

(2) the purpose of this section is to assist the families of fallen Kansas military service members during their time of need in the event of a future federal government shutdown.

(b) On and after January 1, 2015, when a federal government shutdown occurs and an eligible Kansas military service member is killed, the costs of the death gratuity shall be paid by the adjutant general. The adjutant general shall be reimbursed for the cost of the death gratuity once the federal government has reopened and pays the death gratuity. The adjutant general shall develop and implement a procedure to provide such reimbursements on or before January 1, 2015.

(c) To provide for the payments of the costs of paying the death gratuities described in subsection (a), the pooled money investment board is authorized and directed to loan to the adjutant general sufficient funds therefor. The pooled money investment board is authorized and directed to use any moneys in the operating accounts, investment accounts, or other investments, of the state of Kansas to provide the funds for such loans. There shall be no interest on these loans.

(d) The loan principal shall be payable solely from reimbursements received by the adjutant general for death gratuity payments paid by the state of Kansas during a federal government shutdown.

(e) The loan shall not be deemed to be an indebtedness or debt of the state of Kansas within the meaning of section 6 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas.

(f) There is hereby created in the state treasury the adjutant general death gratuity payment facilitation fund. From and after January 1, 2015, the adjutant general may periodically certify to the pooled money investment board amounts to be transferred pursuant to this subsection. Upon certification to the pooled money investment board by the adjutant general of the amounts authorized by subsection (b), the pooled money investment board shall transfer amounts certified by the adjutant general from the state bank accounts described in subsection (b) to the adjutant general death gratuity payment facilitation fund.

(g) All expenditures pursuant to this section, from the adjutant general death gratuity payment facilitation fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the adjutant general, or the adjutant general's designee.

(h) During a federal government shutdown, the adjutant general shall:

(1) Pay the death gratuity to the Kansas military service member's survivor, as designated by the Kansas military service member pursuant to the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 1477(a), as in effect on July 1, 2014. If an eligible Kansas military service member does not designate a survivor or designates only a portion of the death gratuity to be paid to the survivor, the amount of the death gratuity not covered by a designation shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 1477(b), as in effect on July 1, 2014; and

(2) make a death gratuity payment immediately upon receiving official notification of the death of an eligible Kansas military service member.

(i) When making a death gratuity payment as authorized under subsection (g), the adjutant general may act pursuant to the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 1479, as in effect on July 1, 2014, for the purpose of making an immediate payment under 10 U.S.C. § 1475, as in effect on July 1, 2014.

(j) As used in this section:

(1) "Death gratuity" means the benefit payable to a Kansas military service member in accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 1477, as in effect on July 1, 2014.

(2) "Eligible Kansas military service member" means a resident of the state to whose survivor a death gratuity should be paid pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §§ 1475-1476, as in effect on July 1, 2014.

(3) "Federal government shutdown" means any furlough of non-emergency federal personnel and curtailment of agency programs, activities or services resulting in the government's inability to pay a death gratuity to the survivor of an eligible Kansas military service member.

History: L. 2014, ch. 129, § 2; July 1.