

1 AN ACT concerning volunteer emergency responders.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The State Commemorative Dates Act is amended by  
5 adding Section 126 as follows:

6 (5 ILCS 490/126 new)

7 Sec. 126. Volunteer Emergency Responder Appreciation Day.

8 The third Thursday in May of each year is designated Volunteer  
9 Emergency Responder Appreciation Day in Illinois. Volunteer  
10 firefighters, rescue squads, divers, emergency medical  
11 technicians, and response teams sacrifice their time and lives  
12 for their communities with little or no compensation. Volunteer  
13 Emergency Responder Appreciation Day shall be observed  
14 throughout the State by the citizens of Illinois with civic  
15 remembrances of the sacrifices made on their behalf by the  
16 volunteer emergency responders of Illinois, especially the  
17 ultimate sacrifice given by those individuals who have lost  
18 their lives in the line of duty.

19 Section 10. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act is  
20 amended by adding Section 17.2 as follows:

21 (20 ILCS 3305/17.2 new)

1       Sec. 17.2. Volunteer Emergency Responders.

2       (a) The Volunteer Emergency Responder Fund is created as a  
3 special fund in the State treasury. All money in the Volunteer  
4 Emergency Responder Fund shall be paid, subject to  
5 appropriation by the General Assembly and distribution by the  
6 Illinois Emergency Management Agency, to be used for the  
7 following purposes:

8           (1) to purchase emergency response equipment on behalf  
9 of a volunteer emergency response provider that  
10 demonstrates need; and

11           (2) to hold an annual appreciation, memorial, and  
12 commemoration ceremony and other related activities.

13       (b) The Illinois Emergency Management Agency shall hold an  
14 annual meeting for volunteer emergency responders. The meeting  
15 shall meet the following objectives:

16           (1) provide a communication forum where emergency  
17 responders (both volunteer and professional) can join  
18 together to discuss issues facing responders throughout  
19 this State and encourage the formation of a working group  
20 of volunteer responders;

21           (2) provide a forum to discuss the best ways to  
22 organize, share, and coordinate resources for emergency  
23 response throughout this State; and

24           (3) provide a mechanism through which recommendations  
25 may be made concerning management and distribution of funds  
26 in the Volunteer Emergency Responder Fund.

1       The provisions of this subsection (b), other than this  
2 sentence, are inoperative after December 31, 2014.

3       Section 15. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
4 Section 5.811 as follows:

5           (30 ILCS 105/5.811 new)

6       Sec. 5.811. The Volunteer Emergency Responder Fund.

7       Section 20. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by adding  
8 Section 3-699 as follows:

9           (625 ILCS 5/3-699 new)

10       Sec. 3-699. Illinois volunteer emergency responder license  
11 plates.

12       (a) The Secretary, upon receipt of an application made in  
13 the form prescribed by the Secretary, may issue special  
14 registration plates designated as Illinois volunteer emergency  
15 responder license plates. The special plates issued under this  
16 Section shall be affixed only to passenger vehicles of the  
17 first division and motor vehicles of the second division  
18 weighing not more than 8,000 pounds. Plates issued under this  
19 Section shall expire according to the multi-year procedure  
20 established by Section 3-414.1 of this Code.

21       (b) The design and color of the plates is wholly within the  
22 discretion of the Secretary. The Secretary may allow the plates

1 to be issued as vanity plates or personalized under Section  
2 3-405.1 of the Code. The Secretary shall prescribe stickers or  
3 decals as provided under Section 3-412 of this Code.

4 (c) An applicant for the special plate shall be charged a  
5 \$25 fee for original issuance in addition to the appropriate  
6 registration fee. Of this fee, \$10 shall be deposited into the  
7 Volunteer Emergency Responder Fund and \$15 shall be deposited  
8 into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund, to be  
9 used by the Secretary to help defray administrative processing  
10 costs.

11 For each registration renewal period, a \$16 fee, in  
12 addition to the appropriate registration fee, shall be charged.  
13 Of this fee, \$14 shall be deposited into the Volunteer  
14 Emergency Responder Fund and \$2 shall be deposited into the  
15 Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund.

16 (d) Moneys in the Volunteer Emergency Responder Fund shall  
17 be distributed in accordance with Section 17.2 of the Illinois  
18 Emergency Management Agency Act.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
20 becoming law.