

AN ACT designating September 26 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

*(1) The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:*

*(a) Mesothelioma is a deadly cancer which invades the lining of the lungs or abdomen until it destroys the vital organs and is directly related to asbestos exposure. Mesothelioma kills three thousand (3,000) Americans each year, and according to the National Cancer Institute, about two thousand (2,000) new cases are diagnosed annually in the United States;*

*(b) The Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, a national nonprofit collaboration of patients and their families, physicians, advocates, and researchers dedicated to ending the suffering caused by mesothelioma, has designated September 26 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day. The foundation promotes research, supports patients and caregivers, and disseminates the latest clinical information. In addition, the foundation also holds an annual symposium to bring the world's leading mesothelioma experts together to discuss advances in treatment. September 26 was chosen as National Mesothelioma Awareness Day to coincide with the wedding anniversary of a Pennsylvania widow who spent countless hours making others aware of the deadly disease that claimed her husband's life;*

*(c) Many courageous citizens of the Commonwealth have fallen victim to this disease. Attempts to treat the disease have had limited effect, especially when not detected early, and the expected survival rate is between four (4) and fourteen (14) months;*

*(d) Asbestos has been heavily used by the Navy, in construction, industry, and in household products and appliances. It is still present in many homes,*

schools, and office buildings throughout the United States, especially those built prior to 1990. At least forty (40) countries have banned the use of asbestos and have established methods for tracking the disease and exposure sources. The United States has not yet done so, and asbestos is still permitted in imports; various products, such as automobile brake linings which release fibers into the air in high traffic areas; and consumer goods;

(e) During the collapse of the World Trade Center Towers, four hundred (400) tons of pulverized asbestos were released in the dust that spread over lower Manhattan. Natural disasters, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, and deterioration can also release asbestos from structures and buildings into the environment;

(f) The Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization have repeatedly called for updated regulations and tighter controls for using and handling asbestos; and

(g) Raising awareness about mesothelioma will play a key role in prevention, treatment, and education and will result in better health for all individuals in the Commonwealth and throughout the nation.

(2) September 26 of each year is named and declared to be "Mesothelioma Awareness Day" throughout the Commonwealth.

→Section 2. This Act shall be known as the "The Ron Cyrus and Todd Hall Mesothelioma Awareness Act of 2009."