

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 165 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY SACCONI, BAKER, D. MILLER, ORTITAY, D. COSTA,  
BARRAR, MILLARD, PHILLIPS-HILL, READSHAW, WARD, SAINATO,  
MARSICO, B. MILLER AND FARRY, JANUARY 23, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, JANUARY 23, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in decorations, medals, badges and  
3 awards, further providing for authorized decorations, medals,  
4 badges and awards and for specifications.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Sections 3701 and 3702 of Title 51 of the  
8 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

9 § 3701. Authorized decorations, medals, badges and awards.

10 (a) General rule.--The following decorations, medals, badges  
11 and awards are authorized to be presented by the Governor in the  
12 name of the Commonwealth:

- 13 (1) Pennsylvania Cross for Valor.
- 14 (2) Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Medal.
- 15 (3) Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal.
- 16 (4) Pennsylvania Commendation Medal.
- 17 (4.1) Pennsylvania Achievement Medal.
- 18 (5) State Medal for Federal Service during any war.

1 (6) Pennsylvania Service Ribbon or Medal for active  
2 State service during an emergency.

3 (7) Pennsylvania Twenty Year Service Medal.

4 (8) Major General Thomas R. White, Jr. Medal.

5 (9) General Thomas J. Stewart Medal.

6 (10) Pennsylvania Outstanding Aeronautical Achievement  
7 Award.

8 (11) Marksmanship Medals or Badges.

9 (12) Pennsylvania Veterans Service Award.

10 (b) Method of award.--The following decorations, medals,  
11 badges and awards will be awarded under the following  
12 conditions:

13 (1) The Pennsylvania Cross for Valor shall be awarded by  
14 the Governor to members of the Pennsylvania National Guard,  
15 Pennsylvania Guard or the armed forces of the United States  
16 or their reserve components for acts of bravery or valor  
17 above the ordinary gallantry of other members of the  
18 services.

19 (2) The Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Medal shall  
20 be awarded by the Governor to civilians, veterans and members  
21 of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Pennsylvania Guard or  
22 armed forces of the United States or their reserve components  
23 in recognition of meritorious service beyond the normal  
24 dictates of duty to this Commonwealth.

25 (3) The Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal shall be  
26 awarded by the Governor to civilians, veterans and members of  
27 the Pennsylvania National Guard, Pennsylvania Guard or the  
28 armed forces of the United States or their reserve components  
29 in recognition of meritorious service rendered this  
30 Commonwealth and while holding a position of great

1        responsibility or who provide meritorious service to veterans  
2        and their families on behalf of this Commonwealth.

3            (4) The qualifications for awarding the Pennsylvania  
4        Commendation Medal, the Pennsylvania Achievement Medal, the  
5        Pennsylvania Veterans Service Award, the State Medal for  
6        Federal Service during any war, the Service Ribbon or Medal  
7        for active State service during an emergency, the  
8        Pennsylvania Twenty Year Service Medal, the Major General  
9        Thomas R. White, Jr. Medal, the General Thomas J. Stewart  
10       Medal, the Pennsylvania Outstanding Aeronautical Achievement  
11       Award, and the Marksmanship Medals or Badges, shall be  
12       prescribed by the Adjutant General by regulation or  
13       guideline.

14           (5) The Adjutant General is empowered to establish such  
15        other decorations, medals, badges and awards as he may  
16        prescribe by regulation or guideline.

17        (c) Recommendations for medals.--All recommendations for  
18        decorations, medals, badges and awards, except those of the  
19        Governor, must be forwarded to the Governor through the  
20        department.

21        § 3702. Specifications.

22           The Adjutant General shall prescribe the detailed  
23        specifications and design for said decorations, medals, badges  
24        and awards, and is authorized to procure those items in the  
25        prescribed manner. The Adjutant General shall issue appropriate  
26        rules [and], regulations and guidelines for the wearing of said  
27        decorations, medals, badges and awards in accordance with the  
28        customs and traditions of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

29        Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.