

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 1246

PRINTER NO. 1999

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

August 14, 2020

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Regan

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 1246 amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for medals honoring law enforcement officers.

This legislation amends Chapter 21 of Title 53 by adding a new Subchapter F (Medals Honoring Law Enforcement Officers). This new subchapter contains the following sections:

- Section 2191 (relating to establishment of program) establishes a program for the Governor to recognize and decorate law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth who have demonstrated bravery, sacrifice or other exceptionally meritorious conduct in the line of duty. The qualifications shall be established by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC);
- Section 2192 (relating to medal procedure) provides for nominees for a medal, including a member of the Pennsylvania State Police, sheriff, deputy sheriff or a police officer of a police department. This section clarifies that the final decision to issue a medal under this new subchapter shall rest with the Governor; and
- Section 2193 (relating to form of medals) authorizes the following forms of medals:
 - 1) Blue Star of Valor - for exceptional gallantry, heroism and bravery in the face of life-threatening circumstances above and beyond the call of duty;
 - 2) Blue Heart - for those injured in the line of duty; and
 - 3) Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice - for those who have fallen in the line of duty.

The design of each medal shall be approved by the MPOETC, each medal shall be cast in bronze or other metal, and the design shall incorporate the seal of the Commonwealth.

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The cost of a medal shall be paid by the Pennsylvania State Police, county sheriff's department or the police department by which the law enforcement officer is or was employed. The family of a medal recipient may request a second medal and may receive the medal upon payment to the MPOETC of the cost of the medal.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Pennsylvania State Police, the cost of implementing the program and fulfilling the duties of reviewing applications and issuing any medals would be nominal and capable of being accommodated within the agency's current workload and budget. The Pennsylvania State Police currently grant a number of awards to troopers annually.

It is assumed that costs to county sheriff departments and municipal police departments would be minimal.