

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 158

PRINTER NO. 140

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 2, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Regan

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 158 amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for medals honoring law enforcement officers, medals honoring fire personnel and medals honoring emergency medical services personnel.

This legislation amends Chapter 21 of Title 53 by adding a new Subchapter F (Medals Honoring Law Enforcement Officers), a new Subchapter G (Medals Honoring Fire Personnel) and a new Subchapter H (Medals Honoring Emergency Medical Services Personnel). These new subchapters contain the following sections:

Subchapter F (Law Enforcement Officers):

- Section 2191 (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 (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 (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.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

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.

Subchapter G (Fire Personnel):

- Section 2194 (Establishment of program) establishes a program for the Governor to recognize and decorate fire personnel 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 State Fire Commissioner;
- Section 2195 (Medal procedure) provides for nominees for a medal to include a member of a fire company. This section clarifies that the final decision to issue a medal under this new subchapter shall rest with the Governor; and
- Section 2196 (Form of medals) authorizes the following forms of medals:
 - 1) Red Star of Valor - for exceptional gallantry, heroism and bravery in the face of life-threatening circumstances above and beyond the call of duty;
 - 2) Red 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 State Fire Commissioner, each medal shall be cast in bronze or other metal and the design shall incorporate the seal of the Commonwealth.

The cost of a medal shall be paid by the fire company by which the member of the fire company is or was employed or volunteered. The family of a medal recipient may request a second medal and may receive the medal upon payment to the Office of the State Fire Commissioner of the cost of the medal.

Subchapter H (Emergency Medical Services Personnel):

- Section 2197 (Establishment of program) establishes a program for the Governor to recognize and decorate emergency medical services personnel 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 Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of Health;
- Section 2198 (Medal procedure) provides for nominees for a medal to include a member of an emergency medical services agency. This section clarifies that the final decision to issue a medal under this new subchapter shall rest with the Governor; and

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

- Section 2199 (Form of medals) authorizes the following forms of medals:
 - 1) Star of Life - for exceptional gallantry, heroism and bravery in the face of life-threatening circumstances above and beyond the call of duty;
 - 2) White 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 Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of Health, each medal shall be cast in bronze or other metal and the design shall incorporate the seal of the Commonwealth.

The cost of a medal shall be paid by the emergency medical services agency by which the member of the emergency medical services agency is or was employed or volunteered. The family of a medal recipient may request a second medal and may receive the medal upon payment to the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of Health of the cost of the medal.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of implementing the program and fulfilling the duties of reviewing applications and issuing any medals would be nominal. These nominal costs are capable of being accommodated within the Pennsylvania State Police, Office of the State Fire Commissioner and the Department of Health's current workload and budget. The Pennsylvania State Police currently grants a number of awards to troopers annually.

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

Additionally, the cost of medals honoring fire personnel and emergency medical services personnel would be incurred by municipal or volunteer fire companies and emergency medical service agencies.