

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1246 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY REGAN, VOGEL, ARNOLD, PHILLIPS-HILL, STREET, MARTIN, KILLION, BAKER, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, YUDICHAK, J. WARD, MASTRIANO, SCAVELLO, BROWNE, IOVINO AND BLAKE, AUGUST 14, 2020

SENATOR REGAN, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in employees, providing for medals
3 honoring law enforcement officers.

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

6 Section 1. Chapter 21 of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

8 SUBCHAPTER F

9 MEDALS HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

10 Sec.

11 2191. Establishment of program.

12 2192. Medal procedure.

13 2193. Form of medals.

14 § 2191. Establishment of program.

15 A program is established for the Governor to recognize and
16 decorate law enforcement officers in this Commonwealth who have
17 demonstrated bravery, sacrifice or other exceptionally

1 meritorious conduct in the line of duty. The Municipal Police  
2 Officers' Education and Training Commission established in  
3 Subchapter D (relating to municipal police education and  
4 training) shall assist the Governor in the administration of the  
5 program by establishing the qualifications, protocol and other  
6 rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.  
7 § 2192. Medal procedure.

8 (a) Nominees.--A member of the Pennsylvania State Police, <--  
9 SHERIFF, AS DEFINED IN 18 PA.C.S. § 6102 (RELATING TO  
10 DEFINITIONS), OR DEPUTY SHERIFF or a police officer of a police  
11 department as defined in section 2162 (relating to definitions)  
12 may be nominated for a medal under this subchapter.

13 (b) Application.--An application that nominates a law  
14 enforcement officer for a medal may be submitted to the  
15 Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission by  
16 the Governor, a member of the General Assembly, the Commissioner  
17 of Pennsylvania State Police, a county sheriff or the chief  
18 executive of a municipality or police department.

19 (c) Review and issuance of medals.--The Municipal Police  
20 Officers' Education and Training Commission shall review an  
21 application's veracity and conformance to the criteria of the  
22 program and notify the Governor of the applications that are in  
23 compliance. The final decision to issue a medal under this  
24 subchapter shall rest with the Governor. The Governor may  
25 delegate to the Lieutenant Governor or a member of the General  
26 Assembly the act of presenting a medal.

27 § 2193. Form of medals.

28 (a) General rule.--The medals authorized under the program  
29 shall be in the following forms:

30 (1) Blue Star of Valor, which may be awarded to law

1 enforcement officers who have shown exceptional gallantry,  
2 heroism and bravery in the face of life-threatening  
3 circumstances above and beyond the call of duty.

4 (2) Blue Heart, which may be issued to law enforcement  
5 officers injured in the line of duty.

6 (3) Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice, which shall be issued  
7 posthumously to law enforcement officers who have fallen in  
8 the line of duty.

9 (b) Design.--The design of each medal shall be approved by  
10 the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training  
11 Commission. Each medal shall be cast in bronze or other metal  
12 and the design shall incorporate the seal of the Commonwealth.

13 (c) Cost.--The cost of a medal shall be paid by the  
14 Pennsylvania State Police, COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT or the <--  
15 police department by which the law enforcement officer is or was  
16 employed. The family of a medal recipient may request a second  
17 medal and may receive the medal upon payment to the Municipal  
18 Police Officers' Education and Training Commission of the cost  
19 of the medal.

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