

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 158 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY REGAN, VOGEL, ARGALL, AUMENT, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BROOKS, BROWNE, DiSANTO, DUSH, GORDNER, HUTCHINSON, LANGERHOLC, LAUGHLIN, MARTIN, MASTRIANO, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, PITTMAN, ROBINSON, SANTARSIERO, SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, STEFANO, TOMLINSON, J. WARD, K. WARD, YAW, YUDICHAK AND CORMAN, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

SENATOR STEFANO, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AS AMENDED, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in employees, providing for medals
3 honoring law enforcement officers, FOR MEDALS HONORING FIRE <--
4 PERSONNEL AND FOR MEDALS HONORING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
5 PERSONNEL.

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

8 Section 1. Chapter 21 of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania
9 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a ~~subchapter~~ <--

10 SUBCHAPTERS to read: <--

SUBCHAPTER F

MEDALS HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

13 Sec.

14 2191. Establishment of program.

15 2192. Medal procedure.

16 2193. Form of medals.

17 § 2191. Establishment of program.

1 A program is established for the Governor to recognize and
2 decorate law enforcement officers in this Commonwealth who have
3 demonstrated bravery, sacrifice or other exceptionally
4 meritorious conduct in the line of duty. The Municipal Police
5 Officers' Education and Training Commission established in
6 Subchapter D (relating to municipal police education and
7 training) shall assist the Governor in the administration of the
8 program by establishing the qualifications, protocol and other
9 rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.
10 § 2192. Medal procedure.

11 (a) Nominees.--A member of the Pennsylvania State Police,
12 sheriff, as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 6102 (relating to
13 definitions), or deputy sheriff or a police officer of a police
14 department as defined in section 2162 (relating to definitions)
15 may be nominated for a medal under this subchapter.

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

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

30 § 2193. Form of medals.

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

3 (1) Blue Star of Valor, which may be awarded to law
4 enforcement officers who have shown exceptional gallantry,
5 heroism and bravery in the face of life-threatening
6 circumstances above and beyond the call of duty.

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

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

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

16 (c) Cost.--The cost of a medal shall be paid by the
17 Pennsylvania State Police, county sheriff's department or the
18 police department by which the law enforcement officer is or was
19 employed. The family of a medal recipient may request a second
20 medal and may receive the medal upon payment to the Municipal
21 Police Officers' Education and Training Commission of the cost
22 of the medal.

23 SUBCHAPTER G

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24 MEDALS HONORING FIRE PERSONNEL

25 SEC.

26 2194. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

27 2195. MEDAL PROCEDURE.

28 2196. FORM OF MEDALS.

29 § 2194. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

30 A PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE GOVERNOR TO RECOGNIZE AND

1 DECORATE FIRE PERSONNEL IN THIS COMMONWEALTH WHO HAVE
2 DEMONSTRATED BRAVERY, SACRIFICE OR OTHER EXCEPTIONALLY
3 MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN THE LINE OF DUTY. THE STATE FIRE
4 COMMISSIONER SHALL ASSIST THE GOVERNOR IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF
5 THE PROGRAM BY ESTABLISHING THE QUALIFICATIONS, PROTOCOL AND
6 OTHER RULES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS
7 SUBCHAPTER.

8 § 2195. MEDAL PROCEDURE.

9 (A) NOMINEES.--A MEMBER OF A FIRE COMPANY MAY BE NOMINATED
10 FOR A MEDAL UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER.

11 (B) APPLICATION.--AN APPLICATION THAT NOMINATES A MEMBER OF
12 A FIRE COMPANY FOR A MEDAL MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE FIRE
13 COMMISSIONER BY THE GOVERNOR, A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
14 OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A MUNICIPALITY OR FIRE COMPANY.

15 (C) REVIEW AND ISSUANCE OF MEDALS.--THE STATE FIRE
16 COMMISSIONER SHALL REVIEW AN APPLICATION'S VERACITY AND
17 CONFORMANCE TO THE CRITERIA OF THE PROGRAM AND NOTIFY THE
18 GOVERNOR OF THE APPLICATIONS THAT ARE IN COMPLIANCE. THE FINAL
19 DECISION TO ISSUE A MEDAL UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL REST WITH
20 THE GOVERNOR. THE GOVERNOR MAY DELEGATE TO THE LIEUTENANT
21 GOVERNOR OR A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE ACT OF
22 PRESENTING A MEDAL.

23 § 2196. FORM OF MEDALS.

24 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE MEDALS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE PROGRAM
25 SHALL BE IN THE FOLLOWING FORMS:

26 (1) RED STAR OF VALOR, WHICH MAY BE AWARDED TO MEMBERS
27 OF A FIRE COMPANY WHO HAVE SHOWN EXCEPTIONAL GALLANTRY,
28 HEROISM AND BRAVERY IN THE FACE OF LIFE-THREATENING
29 CIRCUMSTANCES ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

30 (2) RED HEART, WHICH MAY BE ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF A FIRE

1 COMPANY INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

2 (3) MEDAL OF ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, WHICH SHALL BE ISSUED
3 POSTHUMOUSLY TO MEMBERS OF A FIRE COMPANY WHO HAVE FALLEN IN
4 THE LINE OF DUTY.

5 (B) DESIGN.--THE DESIGN OF EACH MEDAL SHALL BE APPROVED BY
6 THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER. EACH MEDAL SHALL BE CAST IN BRONZE
7 OR OTHER METAL, AND THE DESIGN SHALL INCORPORATE THE SEAL OF THE
8 COMMONWEALTH.

9 (C) COST.--THE COST OF A MEDAL SHALL BE PAID BY THE FIRE
10 COMPANY BY WHICH THE MEMBER OF THE FIRE COMPANY IS OR WAS
11 EMPLOYED OR VOLUNTEERED. THE FAMILY OF A MEDAL RECIPIENT MAY
12 REQUEST A SECOND MEDAL AND MAY RECEIVE THE MEDAL UPON PAYMENT TO
13 THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER OF THE COST OF THE
14 MEDAL.

15 (D) DEFINITIONS.--AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING
16 WORDS AND PHRASES SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS
17 SUBSECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

18 "FIRE COMPANY." A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, A MUNICIPAL FIRE
19 COMPANY OR A COMBINED VOLUNTEER AND MUNICIPAL FIRE COMPANY
20 LOCATED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

21 SUBCHAPTER H

22 MEDALS HONORING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL
23 SEC.

24 2197. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

25 2198. MEDAL PROCEDURE.

26 2199. FORM OF MEDALS.

27 § 2197. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

28 A PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE GOVERNOR TO RECOGNIZE AND
29 DECORATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL IN THIS
30 COMMONWEALTH WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED BRAVERY, SACRIFICE OR OTHER

1 EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN THE LINE OF DUTY. THE
2 DIRECTOR SHALL ASSIST THE GOVERNOR IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
3 PROGRAM BY ESTABLISHING THE QUALIFICATIONS, PROTOCOL AND OTHER
4 RULES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBCHAPTER.
5 THE DIRECTOR MAY CONSULT WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH
6 SERVICES COUNCIL TO AID IN CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS
7 SUBCHAPTER.

8 § 2198. MEDAL PROCEDURE.

9 (A) NOMINEES.--A MEMBER OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
10 AGENCY MAY BE NOMINATED FOR A MEDAL UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER.

11 (B) APPLICATION.--AN APPLICATION THAT NOMINATES A MEMBER OF
12 AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY FOR A MEDAL MAY BE
13 SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR BY THE GOVERNOR, A MEMBER OF THE
14 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A MUNICIPALITY OR
15 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY.

16 (C) REVIEW AND ISSUANCE OF MEDALS.--THE DIRECTOR SHALL
17 REVIEW AN APPLICATION'S VERACITY AND CONFORMANCE TO THE CRITERIA
18 OF THE PROGRAM AND NOTIFY THE GOVERNOR OF THE APPLICATIONS THAT
19 ARE IN COMPLIANCE. THE FINAL DECISION TO ISSUE A MEDAL UNDER
20 THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL REST WITH THE GOVERNOR. THE GOVERNOR MAY
21 DELEGATE TO THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OR A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY THE ACT OF PRESENTING A MEDAL.

23 § 2199. FORM OF MEDALS.

24 (A) GENERAL RULE.--THE MEDALS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE PROGRAM
25 SHALL BE IN THE FOLLOWING FORMS:

26 (1) STAR OF LIFE, WHICH MAY BE AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF AN
27 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY WHO HAVE SHOWN EXCEPTIONAL
28 GALLANTRY, HEROISM AND BRAVERY IN THE FACE OF LIFE-
29 THREATENING CIRCUMSTANCES ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

30 (2) WHITE HEART, WHICH MAY BE ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF AN

1 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY INJURED IN THE LINE OF
2 DUTY.

3 (3) MEDAL OF ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, WHICH SHALL BE ISSUED
4 POSTHUMOUSLY TO MEMBERS OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
5 AGENCY WHO HAVE FALLEN IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

6 (B) DESIGN.--THE DESIGN OF EACH MEDAL SHALL BE APPROVED BY
7 THE DIRECTOR. EACH MEDAL SHALL BE CAST IN BRONZE OR OTHER METAL,
8 AND THE DESIGN SHALL INCORPORATE THE SEAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

9 (C) COST.--THE COST OF A MEDAL SHALL BE PAID BY THE
10 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY BY WHICH THE MEMBER OF THE
11 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY IS OR WAS EMPLOYED OR
12 VOLUNTEERED. THE FAMILY OF A MEDAL RECIPIENT MAY REQUEST A
13 SECOND MEDAL AND MAY RECEIVE THE MEDAL UPON PAYMENT TO THE
14 BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
15 OF THE COST OF THE MEDAL.

16 (D) DEFINITIONS.--AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING
17 WORDS AND PHRASES SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS
18 SUBSECTION UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

19 "DIRECTOR." THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL
20 SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

21 "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY." AS DEFINED IN 35
22 PA.C.S. § 8103 (RELATING TO DEFINITIONS).

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