

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6502

BILL NUMBER: HB 1142

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 28, 2023

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Hoosier First Responder Medal of Self-Sacrifice.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Lucas

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Hoosier First Responder Medal of Self-Sacrifice (medal) for an Indiana First Responder killed or seriously injured in the line of duty (Indiana First Responder). It provides that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for the design, adoption, and procurement of the medal. The bill provides that a public safety agency may submit to DHS a nomination of an Indiana first responder to be awarded a medal. It provides that, upon approval of a nomination, DHS shall notify the governor of the nomination. It also provides that the governor may award the medal to the Indiana First Responder or the Indiana First Responder's next of kin at a public ceremony.

Effective Date: July 1, 2024.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Department of Homeland Security* – DHS would be responsible for designing and procuring the medal. The cost of each medal will vary depending on the design and fabrication materials chosen as well as the number ordered, but each medal will likely cost between \$100 and \$200. Direct costs associated with the medals themselves are expected to be met through existing appropriations to DHS.

DHS would be responsible for developing eligibility criteria for the medal and administering the medal application process. The additional workload will depend on the award criteria adopted, the number of submissions received, the number of medals awarded, and whether medals will be awarded retroactively. The first year of implementation is likely to require additional work outside the routine administrative functions of DHS, especially if the decision is made to award medals retroactively. Existing staffing and resource levels, if currently being used to capacity, may be insufficient for full implementation. The additional funds and resources required could be supplied through existing staff and resources currently being used in another

program or with new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend on legislative and administrative actions.

Office of the Governor – This bill authorizes, but does not require, the Governor to present the medal to the recipient or the recipient’s next of kin in a public ceremony. The workload for the Office of the Governor will increase according to how many medals are awarded and how many of those medals will be awarded in a public ceremony. The bill’s requirements are within the office’s routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary office staffing and resource levels.

State Public Safety Agencies – State public safety agencies that nominate first responders will experience a slight workload increase associated with the nomination process, but any increase is expected to be met within existing resources.

Additional Information: An average of 6 public safety officers die in the line of duty each year, and another 12 are estimated to incur serious disabilities in the line of duty. The Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) reports that, for fiscal years 2014-2023, a total of 52 public safety officers died in the line of duty. An additional 8 officers’ next of kin received death benefits through the Local Public Safety Relief Fund during that time. INPRS reports that 418 retired public safety officers are receiving disability compensation as a result of Class 1 impairments, which are injuries and other health conditions incurred in the line of duty. The Class 1 impairments all occurred since 1990, which is when the current disability system was implemented. While not all public safety officers who incur Class 1 impairments will meet the requirements of the medal provided for in this bill, the total number facilitates the estimation of serious injuries incurred in the line of duty annually.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Local Public Safety Agencies* – Local public safety agencies that nominate first responders will experience a slight workload increase associated with the nomination process, but any increase is expected to be met within existing resources.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Public safety agencies.

Local Agencies Affected: Public safety agencies.

Information Sources: Andy Blough, Chief Actuary, INPRS;
https://www.in.gov/inprs/files/INPRSAnnualReportBook_FY23.pdf

Fiscal Analyst: Alexander Raggio, 317-234-9485.