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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1369 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY L. WILLIAMS, IOVINO, MUTH, KEARNEY, HUGHES,  
SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, BLAKE, HAYWOOD, A. WILLIAMS, COLLETT,  
BOSCOLA, SABATINA, COSTA, FARNESE, TARTAGLIONE, STREET,  
BREWSTER AND SCHWANK, OCTOBER 30, 2020

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
OCTOBER 30, 2020

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AN ACT

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

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 FIRST RESPONDERS

10 Sec.

11 2191. Definitions.

12 2192. Establishment of program.

13 2193. Medal procedure.

14 2194. Form of medals.

15 § 2191. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
17 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "First responder." A volunteer or career fire, rescue or EMS  
3 member, law enforcement personnel, fire police or 911  
4 dispatcher.

5 § 2192. Establishment of program.

6 A program is established for the Governor to recognize and  
7 decorate first responders in this Commonwealth who have  
8 demonstrated bravery, sacrifice or other exceptionally  
9 meritorious conduct in the line of duty. The Municipal Police  
10 Officers' Education and Training Commission established in  
11 Subchapter D (relating to municipal police education and  
12 training) and the Office of the State Fire Commissioner shall  
13 assist the Governor in the administration of the program by  
14 establishing the qualifications, protocol and other rules  
15 necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

16 § 2193. Medal procedure.

17 (a) Nominees.--A member of the first responder community may  
18 be nominated for a medal under this subchapter.

19 (b) Application.--An application that nominates a first  
20 responder for a medal may be submitted to the Municipal Police  
21 Officers' Education and Training Commission or the Office of the  
22 State Fire Commissioner by the Governor, a member of the General  
23 Assembly, the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, a  
24 county sheriff, the chief executive of a municipality or police  
25 department, the chief of a volunteer or career fire department  
26 or the head of a volunteer or career EMS department.

27 (c) Review and issuance of medals.--The Municipal Police  
28 Officers' Education and Training Commission, in conjunction with  
29 the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, shall review an  
30 application's veracity and conformance to the criteria of the

1 program and notify the Governor of the applications that are in  
2 compliance. The final decision to issue a medal under this  
3 subchapter shall rest with the Governor. The Governor may  
4 delegate to the Lieutenant Governor or a member of the General  
5 Assembly the act of presenting a medal.

6 § 2194. Form of medals.

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

9 (1) Star of Valor, which may be awarded to first  
10 responders who have shown exceptional gallantry, heroism and  
11 bravery in the face of life-threatening circumstances above  
12 and beyond the call of duty.

13 (2) Keystone Heart, which may be issued to first  
14 responders injured in the line of duty.

15 (3) Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice, which shall be issued  
16 posthumously to first responders who have fallen in the line  
17 of duty.

18 (b) Design.--The design of each medal shall be approved by  
19 the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission  
20 and the Office of the State Fire Commissioner. Each medal shall  
21 be cast in bronze or other metal and the design shall  
22 incorporate the seal of the Commonwealth.

23 (c) Cost.--The cost of a medal shall be paid by the  
24 Pennsylvania State Police, county sheriff's department, the  
25 police department by which the law enforcement officer is or was  
26 employed or the company for which the first responder serves or  
27 served. The family of a medal recipient may request a second  
28 medal and may receive the medal upon payment to the Municipal  
29 Police Officers' Education and Training Commission or the Office  
30 of the State Fire Commissioner of the cost of the medal.

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