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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 159 Session of  
2021

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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, YUDICHAK, YAW AND  
CORMAN, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
FEBRUARY 2, 2021

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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 fire personnel.

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 FIRE PERSONNEL

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 fire personnel in this Commonwealth who have

1 demonstrated bravery, sacrifice or other exceptionally  
2 meritorious conduct in the line of duty. The State Fire  
3 Commissioner shall assist the Governor in the administration of  
4 the program by establishing the qualifications, protocol and  
5 other rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
6 subchapter.

7 § 2192. Medal procedure.

8 (a) Nominees.--A member of a fire company may be nominated  
9 for a medal under this subchapter.

10 (b) Application.--An application that nominates a member of  
11 a fire company for a medal may be submitted to the State Fire  
12 Commissioner by the Governor, a member of the General Assembly  
13 or the chief executive of a municipality or fire company.

14 (c) Review and issuance of medals.--The State Fire  
15 Commissioner shall review an application's veracity and  
16 conformance to the criteria of the program and notify the  
17 Governor of the applications that are in compliance. The final  
18 decision to issue a medal under this subchapter shall rest with  
19 the Governor. The Governor may delegate to the Lieutenant  
20 Governor or a member of the General Assembly the act of  
21 presenting a medal.

22 § 2193. Form of medals.

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

25 (1) Red Star of Valor, which may be awarded to members  
26 of a fire company who have shown exceptional gallantry,  
27 heroism and bravery in the face of life-threatening  
28 circumstances above and beyond the call of duty.

29 (2) Red Heart, which may be issued to members of a fire  
30 company injured in the line of duty.

1           (3) Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice, which shall be issued  
2           posthumously to members of a fire company who have fallen in  
3           the line of duty.

4           (b) Design.--The design of each medal shall be approved by  
5           the State Fire Commissioner. Each medal shall be cast in bronze  
6           or other metal, and the design shall incorporate the seal of the  
7           Commonwealth.

8           (c) Cost.--The cost of a medal shall be paid by the fire  
9           company by which the member of the fire company is or was  
10          employed or volunteered. The family of a medal recipient may  
11          request a second medal and may receive the medal upon payment to  
12          the Office of the State Fire Commissioner of the cost of the  
13          medal.

14          (d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
15          words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
16          subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

17          "Fire company." A volunteer fire company, a municipal fire  
18          company or a combined volunteer and municipal fire company  
19          located in this Commonwealth.

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