

AN ACT

relating to designating September 11 as Texas First Responders Day and creating star of Texas awards for peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders who are killed or sustain serious or fatal injuries in the line of duty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 662, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 662.050 to read as follows:

Sec. 662.050. TEXAS FIRST RESPONDERS DAY. (a) September 11 is Texas First Responders Day in honor of the bravery, courage, and determination of Texas men and women who assist others in emergencies.

(b) Texas First Responders Day shall be regularly observed by appropriate ceremonies in the public schools and other places to honor Texas first responders. Each governmental entity may determine the appropriate ceremonies by which Texas observes Texas First Responders Day.

SECTION 2. Subtitle A, Title 11, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 3105 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 3105. STAR OF TEXAS AWARDS

Sec. 3105.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Emergency medical first responder" means an employee or volunteer of the state, a political subdivision, or an emergency medical services provider who provides urgent on-site

1 medical care to the sick or injured.

2 (2) "Firefighter" includes a volunteer firefighter.

3 (3) "Peace officer" means a peace officer commissioned
4 by the state or a political subdivision of the state under Article
5 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or other law.

6 Sec. 3105.002. PEACE OFFICERS' STAR OF TEXAS AWARD.

7 (a) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award may be awarded to a
8 peace officer who is seriously injured in the line of duty or the
9 surviving next of kin of a peace officer who is killed or sustains a
10 fatal injury in the line of duty.

11 (b) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award Advisory
12 Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and
13 presentation of the Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award.

14 (c) The committee consists of three current or retired peace
15 officers appointed by the governor who have each served with
16 distinction during a lengthy career as a peace officer.

17 Sec. 3105.003. FIREFIGHTERS' STAR OF TEXAS AWARD. (a) The
18 Firefighters' Star of Texas Award may be awarded to a firefighter
19 who is seriously injured in the line of duty or the surviving next
20 of kin of a firefighter who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in
21 the line of duty.

22 (b) The Firefighters' Star of Texas Award Advisory
23 Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and
24 presentation of the Firefighters' Star of Texas Award.

25 (c) The committee consists of three current or retired
26 firefighters appointed by the governor who have each served with
27 distinction during a lengthy career as a firefighter.

1 Sec. 3105.004. EMERGENCY MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDERS' STAR OF
2 TEXAS AWARD. (a) The Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of
3 Texas Award may be awarded to an emergency medical first responder
4 who is seriously injured in the line of duty or the surviving next
5 of kin of an emergency medical first responder who is killed or
6 sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.

7 (b) The Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of Texas
8 Award Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance,
9 design, and presentation of the Emergency Medical First Responders'
10 Star of Texas Award.

11 (c) The committee consists of three current or retired
12 emergency medical first responders appointed by the governor who
13 have each served with distinction during a lengthy career as an
14 emergency medical first responder.

15 Sec. 3105.005. GENERAL MATTERS AFFECTING ADVISORY
16 COMMITTEE. (a) Each member of an advisory committee created under
17 this chapter serves at the will of the governor.

18 (b) The governor shall designate the presiding officer of
19 each advisory committee.

20 (c) Each advisory committee shall meet once annually at the
21 call of the governor or the presiding officer of the committee not
22 later than three weeks before September 11, and at a location deemed
23 appropriate by the governor or the governor's representative.

24 (d) A member of an advisory committee may not receive
25 compensation for service on the committee or reimbursement for
26 travel expenses incurred while conducting the business of the
27 committee.

1 (e) An advisory committee is not subject to Chapter 2110.

2 Sec. 3105.006. PRESENTATION; AWARD. (a) The governor or
3 the governor's representative shall present in the name of the
4 state a star of Texas award under this chapter to the appropriate
5 recipient or surviving next of kin during a public ceremony held on,
6 or as near as practicable to, September 11 of each year.

7 (b) At a minimum, the award shall consist of a medal, a
8 certificate, and a ribbon suitable for wearing on a uniform.

9 Sec. 3105.007. RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD. Any person who
10 has personal knowledge that a peace officer, firefighter, or
11 emergency medical first responder has been killed or seriously
12 injured in the line of duty may submit that information in writing
13 to a committee under this chapter.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1937 was passed by the House on April 25, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1937 on May 22, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1937 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor