

1-1 By: Gallego (Senate Sponsor - Gallegos) H.B. No. 1937
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 28, 2003;
1-3 May 1, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; May 15, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0;
1-6 May 15, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1937 By: Hinojosa

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to designating September 11 as Texas First Responders Day
1-11 and creating star of Texas awards for peace officers, firefighters,
1-12 and emergency medical first responders who are killed or sustain
1-13 serious or fatal injuries in the line of duty.

1-14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-15 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 662, Government Code, is
1-16 amended by adding Section 662.050 to read as follows:

1-17 Sec. 662.050. TEXAS FIRST RESPONDERS DAY. (a) September 11
1-18 is Texas First Responders Day in honor of the bravery, courage, and
1-19 determination of Texas men and women who assist others in
1-20 emergencies.

1-21 (b) Texas First Responders Day shall be regularly observed
1-22 by appropriate ceremonies in the public schools and other places to
1-23 honor Texas first responders. Each governmental entity may
1-24 determine the appropriate ceremonies by which Texas observes Texas
1-25 First Responders Day.

1-26 SECTION 2. Subtitle A, Title 11, Government Code, is
1-27 amended by adding Chapter 3105 to read as follows:

1-28 CHAPTER 3105. STAR OF TEXAS AWARDS

1-29 Sec. 3105.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-30 (1) "Emergency medical first responder" means an
1-31 employee or volunteer of the state, a political subdivision, or an
1-32 emergency medical services provider who provides urgent on-site
1-33 medical care to the sick or injured.

1-34 (2) "Firefighter" includes a volunteer firefighter.

1-35 (3) "Peace officer" means a peace officer commissioned
1-36 by the state or a political subdivision of the state under Article
1-37 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or other law.

1-38 Sec. 3105.002. PEACE OFFICERS' STAR OF TEXAS AWARD.

1-39 (a) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award may be awarded to a
1-40 peace officer who is seriously injured in the line of duty or the
1-41 surviving next of kin of a peace officer who is killed or sustains a
1-42 fatal injury in the line of duty.

1-43 (b) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award Advisory
1-44 Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and
1-45 presentation of the Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award.

1-46 (c) The committee consists of three current or retired peace
1-47 officers appointed by the governor who have each served with
1-48 distinction during a lengthy career as a peace officer.

1-49 Sec. 3105.003. FIREFIGHTERS' STAR OF TEXAS AWARD. (a) The
1-50 Firefighters' Star of Texas Award may be awarded to a firefighter
1-51 who is seriously injured in the line of duty or the surviving next
1-52 of kin of a firefighter who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in
1-53 the line of duty.

1-54 (b) The Firefighters' Star of Texas Award Advisory
1-55 Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and
1-56 presentation of the Firefighters' Star of Texas Award.

1-57 (c) The committee consists of three current or retired
1-58 firefighters appointed by the governor who have each served with
1-59 distinction during a lengthy career as a firefighter.

1-60 Sec. 3105.004. EMERGENCY MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDERS' STAR OF
1-61 TEXAS AWARD. (a) The Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of
1-62 Texas Award may be awarded to an emergency medical first responder
1-63 who is seriously injured in the line of duty or the surviving next

2-1 of kin of an emergency medical first responder who is killed or
2-2 sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.

2-3 (b) The Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of Texas
2-4 Award Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance,
2-5 design, and presentation of the Emergency Medical First Responders'
2-6 Star of Texas Award.

2-7 (c) The committee consists of three current or retired
2-8 emergency medical first responders appointed by the governor who
2-9 have each served with distinction during a lengthy career as an
2-10 emergency medical first responder.

2-11 Sec. 3105.005. GENERAL MATTERS AFFECTING ADVISORY
2-12 COMMITTEE. (a) Each member of an advisory committee created under
2-13 this chapter serves at the will of the governor.

2-14 (b) The governor shall designate the presiding officer of
2-15 each advisory committee.

2-16 (c) Each advisory committee shall meet once annually at the
2-17 call of the governor or the presiding officer of the committee not
2-18 later than three weeks before September 11, and at a location deemed
2-19 appropriate by the governor or the governor's representative.

2-20 (d) A member of an advisory committee may not receive
2-21 compensation for service on the committee or reimbursement for
2-22 travel expenses incurred while conducting the business of the
2-23 committee.

2-24 (e) An advisory committee is not subject to Chapter 2110.

2-25 Sec. 3105.006. PRESENTATION; AWARD. (a) The governor or
2-26 the governor's representative shall present in the name of the
2-27 state a star of Texas award under this chapter to the appropriate
2-28 recipient or surviving next of kin during a public ceremony held on,
2-29 or as near as practicable to, September 11 of each year.

2-30 (b) At a minimum, the award shall consist of a medal, a
2-31 certificate, and a ribbon suitable for wearing on a uniform.

2-32 Sec. 3105.007. RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD. Any person who
2-33 has personal knowledge that a peace officer, firefighter, or
2-34 emergency medical first responder has been killed or seriously
2-35 injured in the line of duty may submit that information in writing
2-36 to a committee under this chapter.

2-37 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-38 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-39 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-40 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-41 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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