

By: Gallegos

S.B. No. 1687

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to Texas memorial medal of valor awards for peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders who are killed or sustain fatal injuries in the line of duty.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 11, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 3103 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 3103. TEXAS MEMORIAL MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD

Sec. 3103.001. 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 prehospital care to the sick or injured before or during transportation to a medical facility.

(2) "Firefighter" includes a volunteer firefighter.

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

Sec. 3103.002. TEXAS PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL MEDAL OF VALOR. (a) The Texas Peace Officers Memorial Medal of Valor may be awarded to the surviving next of kin of a peace officer who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.

(b) The Texas Peace Officers Memorial Medal of Valor Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance,

1 design, and presentation of the Texas Peace Officers Memorial Medal
2 of Valor.

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

6 Sec. 3103.003. TEXAS FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL MEDAL OF VALOR.

7 (a) The Texas Firefighters Memorial Medal of Valor may be awarded
8 to the surviving next of kin of a firefighter who is killed or
9 sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.

10 (b) The Texas Firefighters Memorial Medal of Valor Advisory
11 Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and
12 presentation of the Texas Firefighters Memorial Medal of Valor.

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

16 Sec. 3103.004. TEXAS FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL MEDAL OF
17 VALOR. (a) The Texas First Responders Memorial Medal of Valor may
18 be awarded to the surviving next of kin of an emergency medical
19 first responder who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line
20 of duty.

21 (b) The Texas First Responders Memorial Medal of Valor
22 Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance,
23 design, and presentation of the Texas First Responders Memorial
24 Medal of Valor.

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

1 Sec. 3103.005. GENERAL MATTERS AFFECTING ADVISORY
2 COMMITTEE. (a) Each member of an advisory committee created under
3 this chapter serves at the will of the governor.

4 (b) The governor shall designate the presiding officer of
5 each advisory committee.

6 (c) Each advisory committee shall meet at the call of the
7 governor or the presiding officer of the committee.

8 (d) A member of an advisory committee may not receive
9 compensation or travel expenses for service on the committee.

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

11 Sec. 3103.006. PRESENTATION; AWARD. (a) The governor or
12 the governor's representative shall present in the name of the
13 state a Texas memorial medal of valor award under this chapter to
14 the appropriate surviving next of kin during a public ceremony.

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

17 Sec. 3103.007. RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD. Any person who
18 has personal knowledge that a peace officer, firefighter, or
19 emergency medical first responder has been killed in the line of
20 duty may submit that information in writing to a committee under
21 this chapter.

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