

1-1 By: Gallegos S.B. No. 1687
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 14, 2003; March 20, 2003, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Intergovernmental
1-4 Relations; April 22, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0;
1-6 April 22, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1687 By: Gallegos

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

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

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 11, Government Code, is
1-15 amended by adding Chapter 3105 to read as follows:

1-16 CHAPTER 3105. STAR OF TEXAS AWARDS

1-17 Sec. 3105.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-18 (1) "Emergency medical first responder" means an
1-19 employee or volunteer of the state, a political subdivision, or an
1-20 emergency medical services provider who provides urgent on-site
1-21 medical care to the sick or injured.

1-22 (2) "Firefighter" includes a volunteer firefighter.

1-23 (3) "Peace officer" means a peace officer commissioned
1-24 by the state or a political subdivision of the state under Article
1-25 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or other law.

1-26 Sec. 3105.002. PEACE OFFICERS' STAR OF TEXAS AWARD.

1-27 (a) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award may be awarded to a
1-28 peace officer who is seriously injured in the line of duty or the
1-29 surviving next of kin of a peace officer who is killed or sustains a
1-30 fatal injury in the line of duty.

1-31 (b) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award Advisory
1-32 Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and
1-33 presentation of the Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award.

1-34 (c) The committee consists of three current or retired peace
1-35 officers appointed by the governor who have each served with
1-36 distinction during a lengthy career as a peace officer.

1-37 Sec. 3105.003. FIREFIGHTERS' STAR OF TEXAS AWARD. (a) The
1-38 Firefighters' Star of Texas Award may be awarded to a firefighter
1-39 who is seriously injured in the line of duty or the surviving next
1-40 of kin of a firefighter who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in
1-41 the line of duty.

1-42 (b) The Firefighters' Star of Texas Award Advisory
1-43 Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and
1-44 presentation of the Firefighters' Star of Texas Award.

1-45 (c) The committee consists of three current or retired
1-46 firefighters appointed by the governor who have each served with
1-47 distinction during a lengthy career as a firefighter.

1-48 Sec. 3105.004. FIRST RESPONDERS' STAR OF TEXAS AWARD.

1-49 (a) The First Responders' Star of Texas Award may be awarded to an
1-50 emergency medical first responder who is seriously injured in the
1-51 line of duty or the surviving next of kin of an emergency medical
1-52 first responder who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line
1-53 of duty.

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

1-57 (c) The committee consists of three current or retired
1-58 emergency medical first responders appointed by the governor who
1-59 have each served with distinction during a lengthy career as an
1-60 emergency medical first responder.

1-61 Sec. 3105.005. GENERAL MATTERS AFFECTING ADVISORY
1-62 COMMITTEE. (a) Each member of an advisory committee created under
1-63 this chapter serves at the will of the governor.

2-1 (b) The governor shall designate the presiding officer of
2-2 each advisory committee.

2-3 (c) Each advisory committee shall meet at the call of the
2-4 governor or the presiding officer of the committee.

2-5 (d) A member of an advisory committee may not receive
2-6 compensation for service on the committee or reimbursement for
2-7 travel expenses incurred while conducting the business of the
2-8 committee.

2-9 (e) An advisory committee is not subject to Chapter 2110.
2-10 Sec. 3105.006. PRESENTATION; AWARD. (a) The governor or
2-11 the governor's representative shall present in the name of the
2-12 state a star of Texas award under this chapter to the appropriate
2-13 recipient or surviving next of kin during a public ceremony.

2-14 (b) At a minimum, the award shall consist of a medal, a
2-15 certificate, and a ribbon suitable for wearing on a uniform.

2-16 Sec. 3105.007. RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD. Any person who
2-17 has personal knowledge that a peace officer, firefighter, or
2-18 emergency medical first responder has been killed or seriously
2-19 injured in the line of duty may submit that information in writing
2-20 to a committee under this chapter.

2-21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-25 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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