

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 356
By: Watson
Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, there is no specific state military award to recognize Texas service members in the Texas National Guard who have valiantly served in support of the global war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan. S.B. 356 establishes the Texas Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Texas Afghanistan Campaign Medal to honor members of the Texas National Guard who were inducted into federal service in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Enduring Freedom.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the adjutant general in SECTION 1 of this bill.

ANALYSIS

S.B. 356 amends the Government Code to add the Texas Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Texas Afghanistan Campaign Medal to the awards about which the adjutant general is authorized to adopt rules and regulations. The bill requires the Texas Iraqi Campaign Medal to be awarded to a person who was inducted into federal service from the Texas National Guard, without regard to the place that the person was deployed while serving on active federal military duty, after March 19, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or after August 31, 2010, in support of Operation New Dawn. The bill requires the Texas Afghanistan Campaign Medal to be awarded to a person who was inducted into federal service from the Texas National Guard after October 6, 2001, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, without regard to the place that the person was deployed while serving on active federal military duty.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2011.