

By: Lucio, Bettencourt

S.B. No. 2291

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Texas Medal for the Defense of Freedom award.

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

SECTION 1. Section 437.355(a), Government Code, as amended by Chapters 144 (H.B. 115) and 760 (H.B. 2108), Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a) The governor or adjutant general, if delegated the authority, may adopt policies and regulations relating to awarding:

(1) the Texas Purple Heart Medal, which shall be awarded to a service member who:

(A) after September 11, 2001:

(i) was inducted into federal service from the Texas National Guard; and

(ii) meets the criteria for an award of the federal Purple Heart Medal; or

(B) was wounded or killed at Fort Hood on November 5, 2009;

(2) the Texas Superior Service Medal, which shall be awarded to:

(A) a service member of the Texas military forces who has:

(i) completed 30 or more years of honorable state service or a combination of state and federal service; and

1 (ii) continually demonstrated superior  
2 performance and service while assigned to key leadership positions  
3 demanding responsibility; or

4 (B) a civilian who has contributed significant  
5 service to the Texas military forces;

6 (3) the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal, which  
7 shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this state,  
8 another state, or the United States for exceptionally outstanding  
9 achievement or service to this state in performance of a duty of  
10 great responsibility while serving with the Texas military forces  
11 for whom the department receives a letter of recommendation for  
12 award of the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal that:

13 (A) gives an account of the exceptional  
14 achievement or service; and

15 (B) includes facts and photographs, and extracts  
16 from official documents to support and amplify the facts;

17 (4) the Texas Outstanding Service Medal, which shall  
18 be awarded to a service member of the military forces of this state,  
19 another state, or the United States who has performed service in a  
20 superior and clearly outstanding manner;

21 (5) the Texas Humanitarian Service Medal, which shall  
22 be awarded to a service member who:

23 (A) does not meet the criteria for an award of the  
24 federal Humanitarian Service Medal;

25 (B) is a member of the Texas military forces; and

26 (C) while serving on state active duty or active  
27 duty under state authority in accordance with Title 32, United

1 States Code, participates satisfactorily in defense support to a  
2 mission under civilian authority to protect life or property during  
3 or soon after a natural disaster or civil unrest in the state;

4 (6) the Texas Homeland Defense Service Medal, which  
5 shall be awarded to a service member of the Texas military forces  
6 who served:

7 (A) on or after September 11, 2001;

8 (B) on state active duty or active duty under  
9 state authority in accordance with Title 32, United States Code;  
10 and

11 (C) satisfactorily in defense support to a  
12 mission in the state under civilian authority;

13 (7) the Federal Service Medal, which shall be awarded  
14 to a service member who was inducted into federal service from the  
15 Texas military forces between June 15, 1940, and January 1, 1946, or  
16 after June 1, 1950, if the service was for more than 90 days;

17 (8) the Texas Combat Service Ribbon, which shall be  
18 awarded to a service member of the Texas National Guard who served,  
19 after September 11, 2001, in a hostile fire zone as designated by  
20 the United States secretary of defense;

21 (9) the Texas Faithful Service Medal, which shall be  
22 awarded to a member of the Texas military forces who has completed  
23 five years of honorable service during which the service member has  
24 shown fidelity to duty, efficient service, and great loyalty to  
25 this state;

26 (10) the Texas Medal of Merit, which shall be awarded  
27 to a member of the military forces of this state, another state, or

1 the United States who performs outstanding service or attains  
2 extraordinary achievement in behalf of the state or United States;

3 (11) the Texas State Guard Service Medal, which shall  
4 be awarded to a service member who completes three consecutive  
5 years of honorable service in the Texas State Guard during which the  
6 service member has shown fidelity to duty, efficient service, and  
7 great loyalty to this state;

8 (12) the Texas Desert Shield/Desert Storm Campaign  
9 Medal, which shall be awarded to a service member who was inducted  
10 into federal service from the Texas National Guard after August 1,  
11 1990, in support of Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert  
12 Storm, without regard to the place that the service member was  
13 deployed while serving on active federal military duty;

14 (13) the Texas Iraqi Campaign Medal, which shall be  
15 awarded to a service member who was inducted into federal service  
16 from the Texas National Guard, without regard to the place that the  
17 service member was deployed while serving on active federal  
18 military duty, after:

19 (A) March 19, 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi  
20 Freedom; or

21 (B) August 31, 2010, in support of Operation New  
22 Dawn;

23 (14) the Texas Afghanistan Campaign Medal, which shall  
24 be awarded to a service member who was inducted into federal service  
25 from the Texas National Guard after October 6, 2001, in support of  
26 Operation Enduring Freedom, without regard to the place that the  
27 service member was deployed while serving on active federal

1 military duty; [~~and~~]

2 (15) the Cold War Medal, which, subject to Subsection  
3 (c), shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this  
4 state or the United States who:

5 (A) served between September 2, 1945, and  
6 December 26, 1991; and

7 (B) was a resident of this state at the time the  
8 service member entered military service; and

9 (16) the Texas Medal for the Defense of Freedom, which  
10 shall be awarded to any civilian who is killed or wounded by hostile  
11 action while serving under any competent authority of the  
12 department under conditions for which a service member would be  
13 eligible for receipt of the Texas Purple Heart Medal.

14 SECTION 2. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails  
15 over another Act of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017,  
16 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted  
17 codes.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.