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By:  Shine H.B. No. 3391

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to awarding certain medals for military service performed individually or as part of a crew.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 437.352, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 437.352.  LONE STAR MEDAL OF VALOR. The Lone Star Medal of Valor shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this state, another state, or the United States who performs, either individually or as a member of a crew, specific acts of bravery or outstanding courage, or who performs within an exceptionally short period, either individually or as a member of a crew, a closely related series of heroic acts, if the acts involve personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life and result in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the person or crew apart from the person's or crew's comrades or from other persons in similar circumstances. Awarding of the medal requires a lesser degree of gallantry than awarding of the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor, but requires that the acts be performed with marked distinction.

SECTION 2.  Section 437.355(a), Government Code, is 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C)  while serving on state active duty or active duty under state authority in accordance with Title 32, United States Code, participates satisfactorily in defense support to a mission under civilian authority to protect life or property during or soon after a natural disaster or civil unrest in the state;

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

(A)  on or after September 11, 2001;

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

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

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

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

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

(10)  the Texas Medal of Merit, which shall be awarded to a member of the military forces of this state, another state, or the United States who performs outstanding service or attains extraordinary achievement, either individually or as a member of a crew, in behalf of the state or United States;

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

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

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

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

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

(14)  the Texas Afghanistan Campaign Medal, which shall be awarded to a service member 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 service member was deployed while serving on active federal military duty; and

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

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

(B)  was a resident of this state at the time the service member entered military service.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.