

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Freeman, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
Nays:	-
Exc.:	-
Prepared By:	Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Law Enforcement Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice and creates procedures for awarding medal to family of law enforcement officer who died while performing duties or was killed because of employment as law enforcement officer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Instances that resulted in the deaths of law enforcement officers
- Recognition for the job responsibilities of law enforcement officers
- Impact that death in the line of duty has on families of the deceased officers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds a seventh member to the Governor’s Commission on the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor, a surviving family member of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2977 (2005) created the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor to be awarded by the Governor’s Commission on the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor. The Law Enforcement Medal of Honor is intended to serve as the highest possible standard for exceptional conduct for members of the profession. The criteria for nomination are that the officers have distinguished themselves through exceptional honorable and meritorious conduct while in the performance of duty. Exceptionally honorable and meritorious conduct means officers who have distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and fortitude at the risk of their lives, above and beyond the call of duty while performing or fulfilling their responsibilities as law enforcement officers, an act of self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individuals.

Senate Bill 976-A creates the Law Enforcement Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice, to be awarded, upon nomination by the Governor’s Commission on the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor, to the family of a law enforcement officer who died as a result of performing duties of a law enforcement officer.

The medal presented to families will be bronze with a police shield overlaid by a sheriff’s star with the seal of the State of Oregon and the words “Law Enforcement Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice.” The medal will be suspended from a ring that is attached to a gold ribbon with a blue edge and inscribed with the phrase: “Awarded by a grateful state for the ultimate sacrifice by a law enforcement family.”

Current members of the Governor’s Commission on the law Enforcement Medal of Honor are representatives of the Governor, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, Oregon State Sheriffs’ Association, a statewide organization of police officers, and a statewide association of peace officers. Senate Bill 976-A adds a surviving family member of a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty to the Commission.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.