

REVENUE: No revenue impact  
FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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Action: Do Pass  
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0  
Yeas: Atkinson, Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum  
Nays: 0  
Exc.: 0  
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator  
Meeting Dates: 5/12

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**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:**

- Recognition of sacrifice made by family of fallen law enforcement officer
- Law enforcement personal recently killed in the line of duty
- Challenges and risks faced by law enforcement officers
- Importance of medal in helping families heal from loss
- Commitment of law enforcement personnel to protecting Oregonians
- Possible amendment

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2005, the Oregon Legislature adopted House Bill 2977, which 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 the highest award given in the name of the State of Oregon to recognize and honor law enforcement officials who have performed their duties with exceptionally meritorious conduct. 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 of an officer, is the officer will have distinguished themselves through exceptional honorable and meritorious conduct while in the performance of duty. Exceptionally honorable and meritorious conduct means: “An officer has distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and fortitude at the risk of their life, above and beyond the call of duty while performing or fulfilling their responsibilities as a law enforcement officer. It involves risk of life and is an act of bravery, self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above their comrades.”

Senate Bill 976 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 was 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.”

5/16/2011 9:25:00 AM

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