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HOUSE BILL 1766

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Riley, Roland, Orr, Anderson, Belcher, Hargrove, Ludwig, Wineberry, Scott, Basich, R. Johnson, Jones, Kremen, Wilson, Nelson, Ferguson, R. Meyers, Ebersole, Cooper, Rasmussen, Franklin, Leonard and Haugen.

Read first time February 8, 1991. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to law enforcement officers who die in the line of  
2 duty; and adding a new chapter to Title 41 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            There is established a decoration of the  
5 state law enforcement medal of honor with accompanying ribbons and  
6 appurtenances for award by the governor in the name of the state to any  
7 law enforcement officer who has been seriously injured or killed while  
8 in the performance of duty, or who has been distinguished by  
9 exceptionally meritorious conduct, upon nomination of the governor's  
10 state law enforcement medal of honor committee.

11           NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**            There is created the state law  
12 enforcement medal of honor committee for nominating candidates for the  
13 award of the state law enforcement medal of honor. The committee  
14 membership consists of a representative from the governors office, the

1 Washington state law enforcement association, the Washington state  
2 council of police officers, the Washington association of sheriffs and  
3 police chiefs, and the Washington state troopers association. The  
4 attorney general shall serve as chair of the committee and shall  
5 designate a secretary for the committee. The committee shall meet not  
6 less than semiannually to consider candidates for nomination. The  
7 committee shall adopt rules establishing the qualifications for the  
8 state law enforcement medal of honor, the protocol governing the  
9 decoration, and the appurtenances necessary to the implementation of  
10 this chapter.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The state law enforcement medal of honor  
12 shall be awarded to recipients during the national law enforcement  
13 recognition week. The governor may delegate the awarding of the medal  
14 to the lieutenant governor or the attorney general.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The state law enforcement medal of honor  
16 may be awarded posthumously to be presented to the representative of  
17 the deceased as may be deemed appropriate by the governor or the  
18 designees specified in section 3 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The decoration of the state law  
20 enforcement medal of honor shall be bronze and shall consist of a  
21 police shield overlaid by a sheriffs star with the seal of the state of  
22 Washington in the center and the words "law enforcement medal of honor"  
23 within the design and suspended from a ring attached by either a navy  
24 blue ribbon with a gold edge or a green ribbon with a gold edge. Such  
25 color choice shall be the recipient's. The reverse of the decoration  
26 shall be inscribed with the words "For exceptionally honorable and

1 meritorious conduct in performing services as a law enforcement  
2 officer."

3       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.**       Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall  
4 constitute a new chapter in Title 41 RCW.