
State Government Committee

SB 5035

Brief Description: Authorizing the awarding of the medal of valor to a group of persons.

Sponsors: Senators Pearson, Kohl-Welles, Hatfield and Liias; by request of Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permits the Medal of Valor to be awarded to a group of residents of the state.
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Hearing Date: 2/11/15

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

A process for awarding the state Medal of Valor was established in 2000. The medal may be awarded to an individual who has saved, or attempted to save, the life of another at the risk of serious injury or death to himself or herself. The Governor presents the medal during a joint session of both houses.

Any individual may nominate any resident of the state for an act of valor. However, individuals employed by a government entity in any branch of law enforcement, fire fighting, rescue, or other hazardous profession are not eligible for the award. The medal may be awarded posthumously.

The nominations are considered and selected by a committee which meets on an annual basis. The committee consists of the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or their designees. The Secretary of State is a nonvoting ex officio member who serves as the committee's secretary.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

In addition to an individual, the Medal of Valor may be awarded to a group of residents of the state for any act of valor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.