

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1992

SPONSOR: Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee and Senator Argenziano

SUBJECT: Medal of Heroism

DATE: March 26, 2003 REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>White</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>MS</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

## I. Summary:

The committee substitute permits the Governor to award a Medal of Heroism to: (a) a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer; (b) a firefighter; (c) an emergency medical technician; or (d) a paramedic. In order to be eligible for the award, a person must have distinguished himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity; must have risked his or her life deliberately above and beyond the call of duty while performing duty in his or her respective position; and must have engaged in hazardous or perilous activities to preserve lives with the knowledge that such activities might result in great personal harm.

This bill creates an undesignated section of law within the Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

Section 112.194, F.S., permits a Medal of Valor to be awarded to a law enforcement officer or correctional officer defined in s. 943.10(14), F.S.<sup>1</sup> by any of the following entities that appoint such officers: (a) state boards, commissions, departments, divisions, bureaus, and agencies; (b) counties; or (c) municipalities. The medal may be awarded when the officer's actions have been extraordinary and have exposed the officer to peril beyond the call of duty.<sup>2</sup>

This award may cost up to \$250 and may include, but is not limited to, a medal authorized to be worn on the officer's uniform during formal occasions and a commendation bar to be worn on

<sup>1</sup> Section. 943.10(14), F.S., defines "officer" as "any person employed or appointed as a full-time, part-time, or auxiliary law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer."

<sup>2</sup> Section 112.194(1), F.S.

the uniform during normal duty.<sup>3</sup> If the officer has died, the employer may present the medal posthumously to the officer's closest living relative.<sup>4</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill creates a new section of law to permit the Governor to award a Medal of Heroism to: (a) a law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer; (b) a firefighter; (c) an emergency medical technician; or (d) a paramedic. In order to be eligible for the award, a person must have distinguished himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity; must have risked his or her life deliberately above and beyond the call of duty while performing duty in his or her respective position; and must have engaged in hazardous or perilous activities to preserve lives with the knowledge that such activities might result in great personal harm.

The bill provides that a nomination for the medal must be made by written application to the Governor. The Governor may refer an application to any public or private entity for advice and recommendations regarding the application.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2003.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

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<sup>3</sup> Section 112.194(2), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 112.194(3), F.S.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill permits the Governor to award a Medal of Heroism with ribbons and appurtenances. The bill does not specify a maximum amount that the medal may cost, but it is probable that the fiscal impact of such costs would be insignificant.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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