

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 59 w/CS Medal of Heroism
SPONSOR(S): Bean and others
TIED BILLS: none **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** none

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) State Administration	5 Y, 0 N w/CS	Bond	Everhart
2) Public Safety Appropriations	9 Y, 0 N	DeBeaugrine	DeBeaugrine
3) Appropriations			
4)			
5)			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill allows the Governor to award a Medal of Heroism to law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. Criteria for the award include that a recipient has risked his or her life in a manner above and beyond the call of duty.

This bill appears to have a negligible fiscal impact upon state government, and does not appear to have a fiscal impact upon local governments.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

STORAGE NAME: h0059a.ap.doc
DATE: March 24, 2003

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a “no” above, please explain:

This bill adds an additional duty to the Office of Governor, namely to receive and process applications for the Medal of Heroism.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

A Medal of Valor may be given to law enforcement officers or correctional officers. Any state board, commission, department, division, bureau, or agency, or any county or municipality that employs or appoints law enforcement officers or correctional officers, may establish an award program to award a Medal of Valor to any such officer whose actions are extraordinary and expose the officer to peril beyond the call of duty.¹ The Medal of Valor may be presented in the form of a medal authorized to be worn on the officer's uniform during formal occasions and a commendation bar to be worn on the uniform during normal duty. The cost of a Medal of Valor is limited to \$250. A Medal of Valor may be awarded posthumously.

Effect of Bill

This bill allows the Governor to award a Medal of Heroism to law enforcement officers, corrections officers, correctional probation officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, or paramedics, who have “distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity and who risk their lives deliberately, above and beyond the call of duty,” while performing their duty and “engaging in hazardous or perilous activities to preserve lives, with the knowledge that such activities might result in great personal harm” to themselves.

A written application to the Governor is required. The Governor may refer applications to any governmental or private entity for advice and recommendations regarding an application.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 provides for an award of a Medal of Heroism.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2003.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

¹ Section 112.194, F.S.

1. Revenues: None.

2. Expenditures:

The cost of medals and ceremonies should be insignificant. Therefore, the bill is not expected to have an appropriations impact.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues: None.

2. Expenditures: None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR: None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS: None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision: n/a

2. Other: None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY: None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS: None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On February 19, 2002, the Committee on State Administration adopted one amendment to this bill. The amendment specifies that correctional probation officers are included in the list of public safety officers who may be awarded a Medal of Heroism; and allows the Governor to seek input from any state agency, local government, or private organization, when reviewing an application. The bill was then reported favorably, as amended.