

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

SENATE BILL 324

By: Fry

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public safety awards; creating the Oklahoma State Award Program Committee; stating the purpose; establishing certain awards; establishing criteria; providing for Committee membership; establishing meeting requirements; prohibiting certain acts; directing certain responsibilities; making certain allowances; providing for certain actions; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2-108.5 of Title 47, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. There is hereby created the Oklahoma State Award Program Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to create, establish eligibility requirements and make recommendation for awarding the Oklahoma Medal of Valor for meritorious service and the Oklahoma Purple Heart for serious line of duty injuries for law enforcement and public safety members employed by municipal, county, state and employees of federal agencies working in Oklahoma.

1 2. There is hereby established the Oklahoma Medal of Valor and
2 the Oklahoma Purple Heart, along with authorized appurtenances, for
3 award by the Governor, in the name of the state, to any person who
4 has demonstrated meritorious achievement, or a distinct act of
5 courage, or who has incurred injury or wounds, while performing or
6 actively engaged in public service activities. The Oklahoma Purple
7 Heart is limited to law enforcement and public safety members
8 employed by municipal, county, state and employees of federal
9 agencies working in Oklahoma.

10 3. The purpose of each award is to formally recognize
11 extraordinary acts of valor by public safety members and citizens of
12 Oklahoma who engage in extraordinary acts of bravery and valor and
13 to formally recognize public safety members in Oklahoma who have
14 been seriously injured in the line of duty.

15 B. The members of the Oklahoma State Award Program (OSAP)
16 Committee shall have experience in the field of public safety and
17 public service. The OSAP Committee shall be composed of eight (8)
18 members as follows:

- 19 1. The Lieutenant Governor, who shall serve as chair;
- 20 2. The Adjutant General of the Oklahoma National Guard;
- 21 3. The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety;
- 22 4. The Director of the State Department of Corrections;
- 23 5. The Director of the Department of Transportation;
- 24 6. The President of the Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association;

1 7. The President of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of
2 Police; and

3 8. The President of the Oklahoma State Firefighters
4 Association.

5 C. Except at any meeting to select recipients of the Oklahoma
6 Medal of Valor and the Oklahoma Purple Heart, each member, other
7 than the chair, may be represented by a designee; provided, the
8 designee must be an active member in good standing with the agency
9 or association to which the appointed member belongs. The Chairman
10 reserves the right to appoint an advisory board to collect, review
11 and make initial award recommendations to the OSAP committee. The
12 advisory board will be comprised of designees from the eight (8)
13 member OSAP committee.

14 D. The Committee shall conduct its first meeting no later than
15 ninety (90) calendar days after the appointment of the last member.
16 The Committee shall meet at the direction of the chair, and shall
17 normally meet not less than once each year and not more than three
18 times each year.

19 E. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to
20 conduct business.

21 F. The members of the Committee shall serve without
22 compensation, except that the members may be reimbursed for
23 reasonable and necessary expenses arising from Committee activities
24

1 or business. Such expenses shall be paid by the respective agencies
2 at which the member is employed at the time the expense is incurred.

3 G. No member of the OSAP Committee shall solicit, seek or
4 request individuals to submit individuals for awards. OSAP
5 Committee members may explain the program to interested individuals.
6 The Committee may secure directly from any department or agency such
7 information as the Committee deems necessary to carry out its
8 duties.

9 H. The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety shall
10 promulgate rules to establish the following:

11 1. Design of the Oklahoma Medal of Valor and the Oklahoma
12 Purple Heart and any authorized appurtenances proposed by the
13 Adjutant General;

14 2. Criteria for eligibility for award of the Oklahoma Medal of
15 Valor and the Oklahoma Purple Heart proposed by the Adjutant
16 General;

17 3. Criteria for the proper wear of the Oklahoma Medal of Valor
18 and the Oklahoma Purple Heart proposed by the Adjutant General;

19 4. Method of purchasing the Oklahoma Medal of Valor and the
20 Oklahoma Purple Heart;

21 5. Order of precedence relating to other state awards; and

22 6. Other rules deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of
23 this act.

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1 I. The Committee shall consider candidates for award for the
2 Oklahoma Medal of Valor and the Oklahoma Purple Heart only from the
3 applications received. The OSAP Committee may go into executive
4 session to deliberate and select recommended recipients. The Chair
5 shall present to the Governor the names of recommendations as Medal
6 recipients.

7 J. The Committee shall not disclose any information which may
8 compromise an ongoing law enforcement investigation or information
9 that is otherwise required by law to be kept confidential. Only the
10 final recommendation for receipt of the Oklahoma Medal of Valor and
11 the Oklahoma Purple Heart shall be subject to the Oklahoma Open
12 Records Act.

13 K. The Oklahoma Medal of Valor and the Oklahoma Purple Heart
14 may not be awarded to any person who was not selected by the
15 Committee.

16 L. The award of the Oklahoma Medal of Valor and the Oklahoma
17 Purple Heart may be rescinded for suitable cause. The Chair, with
18 the consent of the Committee, shall forward the recommendation for
19 rescission to the Governor. The final decision to rescind must be
20 approved by the Governor.

21 M. The Oklahoma Medal of Valor and the Oklahoma Purple Heart
22 may be awarded posthumously and may be presented to such
23 representative of the deceased's family as may be deemed appropriate
24 by the Governor.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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