



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 375

January Session, 2013

House Bill No. 6597

House of Representatives, April 4, 2013

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CREATING THE CIVILIAN MEDAL OF HONOR.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Emergency Services and Public Protection is authorized to award the
3 civilian medal of honor, in accordance with the provisions of
4 subsections (b) and (c) of this section, directly or posthumously to any
5 citizen of the state in recognition of a valorous and heroic deed
6 performed in saving a life or for injury or death or threat of injury or
7 death incurred in the service of the state or such citizen's community
8 or on behalf of the health, welfare or safety of other persons.

9 (b) Recommendations for the civilian medal of honor may be
10 submitted to the commissioner, in the form and manner prescribed by
11 the commissioner, by any member of the public. The commissioner
12 shall forward such recommendations to a selection board consisting of
13 members appointed as follows: One member appointed by the
14 Governor, two members appointed by the Commissioner of
15 Emergency Services and Public Protection, one member appointed by

16 the president pro tempore of the Senate, one member appointed by the
 17 speaker of the House of Representatives, one member appointed by
 18 the majority leader of the Senate, one member appointed by the
 19 minority leader of the Senate, one member appointed by the majority
 20 leader of the House of Representatives and one member appointed by
 21 the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The board
 22 member selected by the Governor shall act as chairperson of the
 23 selection board and shall call meetings of the selection board, which
 24 shall occur at least once each calendar year.

25 (c) The selection board shall review recommendations for the
 26 civilian medal of honor submitted by the public and shall select
 27 nominees for such medal, giving due consideration to the criteria
 28 described in subsection (a) of this section. The commissioner shall
 29 review the selection board's nominations and award the civilian medal
 30 of honor to any such nominee whom the commissioner deems
 31 deserving.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	New section

PS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	25,000	500

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which creates a civilian medal of honor, is anticipated to result in costs to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) of:

1. \$25,000 in medal design and manufacturing costs in FY 14.
2. \$500 per year starting in FY 15 from the anticipated issuance of two medals per year.

There is no cost to DESPP to develop and implement the annual medal selection process.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6597*****AN ACT CREATING THE CIVILIAN MEDAL OF HONOR.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes the emergency services and public protection commissioner to award the civilian medal of honor, directly or posthumously, to any Connecticut citizen in recognition of (1) a valorous and heroic deed performed in saving a life or (2) injury or death or threat of such incurred (a) in the service of the state or the person's community or (b) on behalf of the health, welfare, or safety of other people.

Any member of the public may submit recommendations for the award to the commissioner, in the form and manner he prescribes. The commissioner must forward recommendations to a selection board, which must review them and select nominees, giving due consideration to the selection criteria. The commissioner must review the board's nominations and award the medal to any such nominee he deems deserving.

The nine member selection board consists of (1) one member each appointed by the six top legislative leaders and the governor and (2) two members appointed by the commissioner. The governor's appointee serves as the chairperson and must call at least one meeting per year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/21/2013)