

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 14, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 671

Introduced by Assembly Member Krekorian

February 25, 2009

~~An act relating to the Public Safety Medal of Honor. An act to amend Sections 3402 and 3404 of the Government Code, relating to the Golden Shield Award.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 671, as amended, Krekorian. ~~Public Safety Medal of Honor. Golden Shield Award.~~

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act authorizes the Governor to annually award and present in the name of the State of California a Medal of Valor to one public safety officer, as defined, who is cited by the Attorney General, upon the recommendation of the board, for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty.

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to establish a Medal of Honor to bestow on a public safety officer who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may die after being wounded in the line of duty.~~

This bill would authorize the Governor to additionally annually award and present in the name of the State of California a Golden Shield Award to one public safety officer who is cited by the Attorney General, upon the recommendation of the Medal of Valor Review Board, who while serving under competent authority in any capacity, has been wounded or killed, or who has died after being wounded in the line of duty.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 3402 of the Government Code is amended
 2 to read:
 3 3402. (a) The Governor annually may award, and present in
 4 the name of the State of California, a Medal of Valor of appropriate
 5 design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to one public safety officer
 6 who is cited by the Attorney General, upon the recommendation
 7 of the Medal of Valor Review Board, for extraordinary valor above
 8 and beyond the call of duty. In exceptional circumstances, the
 9 Governor may award more than one Medal of Valor in a year. The
 10 Public Safety Medal of Valor shall be the highest state award for
 11 valor awarded to a public safety officer.
 12 (b) *The Governor annually may award, and present in the name*
 13 *of the State of California, a Golden Shield Award of appropriate*
 14 *design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to one public safety officer*
 15 *who is cited by the Attorney General, upon the recommendation*
 16 *of the Medal of Valor Review Board, who, while serving under*
 17 *competent authority in any capacity, has been wounded or killed,*
 18 *or who has died after being wounded in the line of duty. In*
 19 *exceptional circumstances, the Governor may award more than*
 20 *one Golden Shield Award in a year.*
 21 SEC. 2. Section 3404 of the Government Code is amended to
 22 read:
 23 3404. (a) The board shall conduct its first meeting not later
 24 than 90 days after the appointment of the last member appointed
 25 of the initial group of members appointed to the board. Thereafter,
 26 the board shall meet at the call of the chair of the board. The board
 27 shall meet not more than once each year.
 28 (b) A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a
 29 quorum to conduct business, but the board may establish a lesser
 30 quorum for conducting hearings scheduled by the board. The board
 31 may establish by majority vote any other rules for the conduct of
 32 the board’s business, if the rules are not inconsistent with this
 33 chapter or other provisions of law.
 34 (c) The board shall recommend candidates for the Medal of
 35 Valor *and the Golden Shield Award* from among the applications

1 received by the board. Not more often than once each year, the
2 board may present to the Attorney General the name or names of
3 those it recommends as candidates for the Medal of Valor *and the*
4 *Golden Shield Award*. In a given year, the board shall not be
5 required to recommend any candidates but may not recommend
6 more than five candidates. The Attorney General in extraordinary
7 cases may increase the number of candidates in a given year. The
8 board shall set an annual timetable for fulfilling its duties under
9 this chapter.

10 (d) The board may hold one annual hearing, sit and act at a
11 designated time and place, administer oaths, take testimony, and
12 receive evidence as the board considers advisable to carry out its
13 duties.

14 (e) Witnesses requested to appear before the board may be paid
15 the same fees as are paid to witnesses pursuant to the Code of Civil
16 Procedure. The per diem and mileage allowances for witnesses
17 shall be paid from funds donated to the board.

18 (f) The board may secure directly from any state department or
19 other state or local agency information as the board considers
20 necessary to carry out its duties. Upon the request of the board,
21 the head of a department or agency may furnish information to the
22 board.

23 (g) The board shall not disclose any information that may
24 compromise an ongoing law enforcement investigation or is
25 otherwise required by law to be kept confidential.

26 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a~~
27 ~~Medal of Honor to bestow on a public safety officer who, while~~
28 ~~serving under competent authority in any capacity, has been~~
29 ~~wounded or killed, or who has died or may die after being wounded~~
30 ~~in the line of duty. It is the intent of the Legislature to model this~~
31 ~~award after the Medal of Valor.~~