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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5408**

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**State of Washington**

**56th Legislature**

**1999 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Benton, Hale, Shin, Winsley, Patterson and Rossi)

Read first time 03/08/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to a state medal of valor; and adding a new chapter  
2 to Title 1 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** There is established a decoration of the  
5 state medal of valor with accompanying certificate, ribbons, and  
6 appurtenances for award by the governor, in the name of the state, to  
7 any person who has saved, or attempted to save, the life of another at  
8 the risk of serious injury or death to himself or herself, upon the  
9 selection of the governor's state medal of valor committee.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created the state medal of valor  
11 committee for selecting honorees for the award of the state medal of  
12 valor. The committee membership consists of the governor, president of  
13 the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, and the chief  
14 justice of the supreme court, or their designees. The secretary of  
15 state shall serve as a nonvoting ex officio member, and shall serve as  
16 secretary to the committee. The committee shall meet annually to  
17 consider candidates for this award. Any individual may nominate any  
18 resident of this state for any act of valor covered by this section.

1 The committee shall adopt rules establishing the qualifications for the  
2 state medal of valor, the protocol governing the decoration, the  
3 certificate, and appurtenances necessary to the implementation of this  
4 chapter.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The award will be presented by the  
6 governor of the state of Washington to the recipient only during a  
7 joint session of both houses of the legislature.

8 (2) If the governor is unable to present the award due to the  
9 disability or illness of the governor, the governor may delegate the  
10 presenting of the award to the president of the senate, the speaker of  
11 the house of representatives, or the chief justice of the supreme  
12 court.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The state medal of valor may be awarded  
14 posthumously to be presented to such representative of the deceased as  
15 may be deemed appropriate by the committee.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The state medal of valor will not be awarded  
17 to any individual who is acting as a result of service given by any  
18 branch of law enforcement, fire fighting, rescue, or other hazardous  
19 profession where the individual is employed by a government entity  
20 within the state of Washington.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The decoration of the state medal of  
22 valor shall be of .999 pure silver and shall consist of the seal of the  
23 state of Washington, surrounded by a raised laurel wreath and suspended  
24 from a silver bar device inscribed "For Valor" which is suspended from  
25 a ring attached by a dark green ribbon, bordered by silver. The  
26 reverse of the decoration within the raised laurel wreath shall be  
27 inscribed with the recipient's name and the words: "For exceptionally  
28 valorous service, given in the act of saving the life of another."

29 (2) The certificate accompanying the medal will prominently  
30 display: (a) The title, "Washington State Medal of Valor"; (b) the  
31 recipient's name; and (c) the phrase, "For exceptionally valorous  
32 service, given in the act of saving the life of another." A seven-line  
33 citation will also be included on the certificate.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 7.**   Sections 1 through 6 of this act constitute  
2   a new chapter in Title 1 RCW.

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