



AN ACT REVISING HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER LAWS; CREATING A RECOGNITION OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE ON RETIREMENT; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1. Recognition of meritorious service on retirement.** (1) The highway patrol chief shall award to a highway patrol officer, on retirement, that highway patrol officer's badge, duty weapon, and handcuffs, providing that a committee of three of the highway patrol officer's peers certifies to the highway patrol chief that the retiring highway patrol officer has:

- (a) served meritoriously for a minimum of 20 years and must be so honored; or
- (b) taken medical retirement resulting from an in-the-line-of-duty injury sustained while providing meritorious service.

(2) The highway patrol chief shall award to a surviving spouse or dependent of a highway patrol officer who died in the line of duty that highway patrol officer's badge, duty weapon, and handcuffs.

**Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 44, chapter 1, part 6, and the provisions of Title 44, chapter 1, part 6, apply to [section 1].

**Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
HB 491, originated in the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

HOUSE BILL NO. 491

INTRODUCED BY S. GUNDERSON

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