

SENATE BILL 541

By McNally

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3,  
Chapter 1 and Title 58, Chapter 3, Part 1, relative  
to establishing the Tennessee medal of honor.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 3, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as new, appropriately designated sections:

58-3-113.

(a) The Tennessee medal of honor may be awarded on behalf of the people of the State of Tennessee to an individual who has been killed in action, while:

(1) Engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

(2) Engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force;

(3) Serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party; or

(4) Serving in a combat zone as designated by presidential order.

(b) A recipient of the Tennessee medal of honor may have the recipient's name entered on the Tennessee medal of honor roll.

(c) Individuals eligible to receive the Tennessee medal of honor include:

(1) Members of the Tennessee national guard who were legal residents of Tennessee at the time they were killed in action;

(2) Members of the United States military reserves who were legal residents of Tennessee at the time they were killed in action;

(3) Members of the regular United States armed forces who were:

(A) Legal residents of Tennessee at the time they were killed in action; or

(B) Stationed in Tennessee by a proper order of the United States department of defense at the time they were killed in action; and

(4) Members of the Tennessee national guard, United States military reserves, or regular United States armed forces who:

(A) Attended a public or private educational institution in Tennessee at some period during their lives; and

(B) Were killed in action.

(d) The Tennessee medal of honor shall be awarded solely by a joint resolution:

(1) Introduced by:

(A) The speaker of the senate;

(B) The speaker of the house of representatives; or

(C) The duly authorized representative of the speaker of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(2) Adopted by both houses of the general assembly.

58-3-114.

(a) The commissioner of veterans' affairs is directed to convene an advisory committee consisting of the governor or the governor's designee, the speaker of the house of representatives or the speaker's designee, the speaker of the senate or the speaker's designee, the adjutant general or the adjutant general's designee, the commissioner of veterans' affairs or the commissioner's designee, and two (2) Tennessee veterans to be selected by the commissioner of veterans' affairs. The advisory committee shall make recommendations and issue findings regarding

establishment of a veteran's honor medal program to appropriately recognize and honor Tennessee veterans. The advisory committee shall consider:

- (1) Design and composition of the honor medal;
- (2) Eligibility criteria for awarding the honor medal;
- (3) Public and private funding sources for the program;
- (4) Estimated cost of manufacturing and awarding such medals; and
- (5) Other matters deemed relevant by the committee.

(b) The advisory committee shall report its recommendations and findings to the general assembly no later than January 11, 2012, at which time the advisory committee shall cease to exist.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.