

## Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1364

An act relating to military awards and decorations; authorizing the Governor to present the Governor's Medal of Merit to a resident of this state who has rendered exceptional meritorious service or who is serving, or who has been honorably discharged from service, in the United States Armed Forces, the Florida National Guard, or the United States Reserve Forces and, while on active duty, rendered exceptional meritorious service; providing a definition; providing for the medal to be presented to a designated representative in the event of the death of a chosen recipient; limiting presentation to one medal per individual; authorizing the Executive Office of the Governor to adopt rules; amending s. 250.10, F.S.; authorizing the Adjutant General to issue military decorations and awards; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Governor's Medal of Merit.—

(1) The Governor may present, in the name of the State of Florida, a medal to be known as the "Governor's Medal of Merit," which shall bear a suitable inscription and ribbon of appropriate design, to:

(a) Any legal resident of this state who has rendered exceptional meritorious service to the citizens of this state;

(b) Any legal resident of this state who is serving under honorable conditions on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, the Florida National Guard, or the United States Reserve Forces and has rendered exceptional meritorious service to the citizens of this state while on active duty; or

(c) Any legal resident of this state who has been honorably discharged from active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, the Florida National Guard, or the United States Reserve Forces and, while on active duty, rendered exceptional meritorious service to the citizens of this state.

As used in this subsection, the term "exceptional meritorious service" means acts of bravery above and beyond the level of duty normally required by that person's respective military or civilian position.

(2)(a) In the event of the death of an individual who has been chosen to receive the Governor's Medal of Merit, the medal shall be presented to a designated representative of the chosen recipient.

(b) The Governor's Medal of Merit may only be presented to an individual once.

(3) The Executive Office of the Governor, in consultation with the Adjutant General and other appropriate entities, may adopt rules pursuant to sections 120.536(1) and 120.54, Florida Statutes, to implement this section.

Section 2. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (2) of section 250.10, Florida Statutes, to read:

250.10 Appointment and duties of the Adjutant General.—

(2) The Adjutant General shall:

(n) Issue decorations and awards pursuant to military regulations and instructions.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 25, 2004.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 25, 2004.