

HB

235

<TARGET><BILL>HB 235</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
235</SUBJECT><COMM></COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 5/8/17

FURTHER: Rules

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 4/17/18

State Affairs Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 235(STA)

HB 235-NORTH STAR MEDAL

"An Act creating the North Star Medal."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change New Title/SCR No. _____
- adopt previous SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change New Title/SCR No. _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
EED	MVA
DEC	DNR
DFG	DPS
GOV	REV
DHS	DOT
AJS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
DPS			✓	2

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	No REC	AMEND
	Wilson	✓			
	Giesse	✓			
	EGAN	✓			
	Coghill	✓			
CHAIR:	MEYER	✓			

ALASKA LEGISLATURE
Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Angoon · Coffman Cove · Craig · Edna Bay · Elfin Cove · Game Creek · Hollis · Hoonah · Kake · Kasaan · Klawock · Kupreanof · Naukati
Pelican · Petersburg · Point Baker · Port Alexander · Port Protection · Sitka · Tenakee Springs · Thorne Bay · Whale Pass

rep.jonathan.kreiss-tomkins@akleg.gov

Committees:
State Affairs, Chair
Fisheries
Judiciary



Juneau, Alaska 99801 (Jan. – April)
State Capitol, Room 411
907.465.3732

Sitka, Alaska 99835 (May – Dec.)
201 Katlian Street, Ste. 103
907.747.4665

Date: February 14, 2018

To: Senator Kevin Meyer, Senate State Affairs Chair

From: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, District 35

Subject: HB 235 Hearing Request Memo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JKT", written over the "From:" line.

I respectfully request a hearing for HB 235: An Act to Create the North Star Medal. I have included the following documents with this request:

- Sponsor Statement
- CS for HB 235 ver J
- Summary of Changes
- HB 235 ver D
- Fiscal Note
- National Conference of State Legislatures Research Document
- Officer Down Memorial Page
- Letters of Support

Possible testifiers include:

- Former Representative Bob Lynn, boblynn@alaskan.com
- Commissioner Walt Monegan, Department of Public Safety, walt.monegan@alaska.gov
- Chief Bryce Johnson, Juneau Police Department, bajohnson@juneaupolice.com

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my assigned staffer, Griffin Plush at Griffin.Plush@akleg.gov or 465-3732.

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

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Sponsor Statement | HB 235 The North Star Medal

HB 235 creates a rare and high honor to be awarded by the State of Alaska to first responders who are injured or killed while exhibiting great courage in the service of their fellow Alaskans. The North Star Medal is reserved for firefighters, peace officers, first responders, and search and rescue volunteers.

The idea for the bill came from Representative Bob Lynn, the former chair of the House State Affairs Committee, who envisioned the award as “a small thanksgiving” for the valor and sacrifice shown by these men and women.

One comparable award currently exists. The State Medal for Heroism was created by the legislature in 1965 to recognize the heroic and valorous deed of saving a life. In contrast to the North Star Medal, the Medal for Heroism can be awarded to any Alaskan, and has been awarded to individuals of all ages for what are often spontaneous acts of bravery. For example, the Medal for Heroism was awarded to a 10-year-old boy in Nome who lost his life rescuing a woman from a burning house in 1984, and to others who have saved people from drowning, or from death and injury in the aftermath of airplane and car crashes.

The North Star Medal does not duplicate this award; while the recipients of the State Medal for Heroism have responded to extraordinary events with courage, the North Star Medal honors those individuals who show up each day knowing that they could be asked to give their lives to protect and serve their fellow Alaskans. Other states such as Idaho, Illinois, Oregon, and Texas have similar awards that honor first responders for meritorious conduct and/or death or injury in the line of duty.

Nominations for the North Star Medal can originate within communities and organizations, and will be passed on to the highest ranking supervisor in the department or organization, who will then make recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Safety. After consideration, the Commissioner of Public Safety will submit the names of the nominees for the award to the Governor.

At a ceremony held no more than once a year, the Governor will present the recipient of the North Star Medal with a ribbon, a medal, and a citation. If the honoree is no longer living or cannot accept the award, the next of kin may accept it on their behalf.

The North Star Medal is a sign of gratitude from the people of Alaska to first responders whose dedication is a constant in a changing world.

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

Angoon · Coffman Cove · Craig · Edna Bay · Elfin Cove · Game Creek · Hollis · Hoonah · Kake · Kasaan · Klawock · Kupreanof · Naukati
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HB 225: NORTH STAR MEDAL

Explanation of Changes

Page 1, Line 5, “correctional officer” was inserted after “officer.” Correctional officers are mentioned by name because the definitions for “peace officer” do not consistently include correctional officer. It is the intent to include correctional officers in the group of individuals eligible for the North Star Medal.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

Purple Hearts or Similar Awards for Law Enforcement or First Responders

March 2017

Idaho

Idaho Code § 67-8801

There is hereby established a decoration of the Idaho law enforcement, firefighting and EMS medal of honor with accompanying ribbons and appurtenances for award by the governor in the name of the state to any law enforcement officer, firefighter or EMS provider who has been killed or seriously injured in the performance of duty, or who has been distinguished by exceptionally meritorious conduct, upon nomination of the Idaho law enforcement, firefighting and EMS medal of honor commission.

Illinois

20 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 3985/2003

When developing the standards and criteria for the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor Program, the Committee shall place an emphasis and priority upon consideration of those law enforcement officers who have been killed or seriously injured in the line of duty or who have displayed exceptional bravery or heroism while performing their duties as a law enforcement officer.

Oregon

Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 176.267

- (1) The Law Enforcement Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice is established. Upon nomination by the Governor's Commission on the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor established under ORS 176.262, the Governor or the Governor's designee may award the medal in the name of the state to the family of a law enforcement officer who has died while performing his or her duties as a law enforcement officer or who was killed because of his or her employment as a law enforcement officer.
- (2) The medal shall be bronze and consist of a police shield overlaid by a sheriff's star with the seal of the State of Oregon in the center and the words "Law Enforcement Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice" within the design. The medal shall be suspended from a ring that is attached to a gold ribbon with a blue edge. The reverse side of the medal shall be inscribed with the words "Awarded by a grateful state for the ultimate sacrifice by a law enforcement family."

Texas

Tex. Gov't Code § 3106.004

- (a) The Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of Texas Award shall be awarded to each emergency medical first responder who is seriously injured in the line of duty and the surviving next of kin of each emergency medical first responder who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.
- (b) The Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of Texas Award Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and presentation of the Emergency Medical First Responders' Star of Texas Award.
- (c) The committee consists of three current or retired emergency medical first responders appointed by the governor who have each served with distinction during a lengthy career as an emergency medical first responder.

Tex. Gov't Code § 3106.002

- (a) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award shall be awarded to:
- (1) each peace officer who is seriously injured in the line of duty;
 - (2) the surviving next of kin of each peace officer who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty;
 - (3) each federal law enforcement officer or special agent who is seriously injured while performing duties in this state to assist a state or local law enforcement agency; and
 - (4) the surviving next of kin of each federal law enforcement officer or special agent who is killed or sustains a fatal injury while performing duties in this state to assist a state or local law enforcement agency.
- (b) The Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and presentation of the Peace Officers' Star of Texas Award.
- (c) The committee consists of three current or retired peace officers appointed by the governor who have each served with distinction during a lengthy career as a peace officer.

Tex. Gov't Code § 3106.003

- (a) The Firefighters' Star of Texas Award shall be awarded to each firefighter who is seriously injured in the line of duty and the surviving next of kin of each firefighter who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.
- (b) The Firefighters' Star of Texas Award Advisory Committee shall advise the governor on the issuance, design, and presentation of the Firefighters' Star of Texas Award.
- (c) The committee consists of three current or retired firefighters appointed by the governor who have each served with distinction during a lengthy career as a firefighter.

Washington**Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 41.72.010**

There is established a decoration of the state law enforcement medal of honor with accompanying ribbons and appurtenances for award by the governor in the name of the state to any law enforcement officer who has been seriously injured or killed while in the performance of duty, or who has been distinguished by exceptionally meritorious conduct, upon nomination of the governor's state law enforcement medal of honor committee.

Also see:**Iowa**

The Iowa State Police Association '*Purple Heart*' award was developed in 2013 for the purpose of honoring law enforcement officers who have been seriously wounded or killed in the line of duty as a result of a combat incident.

http://www.ispaonline.com/en/purple_heart_award/

New York

New York City Police Department

Purple Shield Medals are awarded to those members of the service who have suffered extremely serious physical injury, or death, or permanent disfigurement, protracted or permanent impairment of health as determined by the Honor Board.

<http://www.echo23marines6569.org/RoccoShield.html>

Statutes & bills may be edited or summarized; full text can be retrieved through:
<http://www.ncsl.org/public/leglinks.cfm>
Information is provided for representative purposes; this may not be a complete list or analysis.

Officer Down Memorial Page

"When a police officer is killed, it's not an agency that loses an officer, it's an entire nation."

-Chris Cosgriff, ODMP Founder

United States > Alaska



Alakanuk Police Department
Alakanuk, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1985)



Alaska Department of Corrections
Anchorage, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (2002)



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Juneau, AK
Fallen officers: 2 (1964, 1964)



Alaska Department of Public Safety
Anchorage, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1994)



Alaska State Troopers
Anchorage, AK
Fallen officers: 11 (1964, 1974, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1994, 1997, 2001, 2013, 2014)



Alaska State Troopers - Fish and Wildlife Protection
Anchorage, AK
Fallen officers: 3 (1983, 1998, 2001)



Alaska State Troopers - Village Public Safety Officers
Anchorage, AK
Fallen officers: 2 (1986, 2013)



Anchorage Police Department
Anchorage, AK
Fallen officers: 10 (1921, 1924, 1968, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1986, 1989, 1996, 2001)



Bethel Police Department
Bethel, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1972)



Craig Police Department
Craig, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1966)



Dillingham Police Department
Dillingham, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1992)



Fairbanks Police Department
Fairbanks, AK
Fallen officers: 3 (1908, 1998, 2016)



Hoonah Police Department
Hoonah, AK
Fallen officers: 2 (2010, 2010)



Juneau Police Department
Juneau, AK
Fallen officers: 4 (1964, 1979, 1979, 1992)



Kenai Police Department
Kenai, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (2003)



Ketchikan Police Department
Ketchikan, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1974)



Kodiak Police Department
Kodiak, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1983)



Palmer Police Department
Palmer, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1999)



Seward Police Department
Seward, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1917)



Sitka Police Department
Sitka, AK
Fallen officers: 1 (1960)



Re: HB 235 (North Star Medal)

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Brandy Johnson. I am testifying in support of HB 235 on behalf of surviving families of line of duty death law enforcement officers in the state of Alaska.

As many of you are well aware, my husband, Scott was murdered while in the performance of his job as a Sgt. with the Alaska State Troopers on May 1st, 2014.

After Scott was murdered, I received many great gifts. Some of these gifts were quite thoughtful. Some were very honorable and some were quite strange. I was perplexed. During the grieving, I initially thought, "How is this gift or item supposed to make me feel better?". My Mother reminded me to just say thank you. What I later came to realize, is that most of the gifts brought comfort to the givers and some brought comfort to my family. Once I came to this realization, I was more accepting, comfortable and happy to know that I was helping them with their grief.

On the mantle to the fireplace Scott and I built sits the urn of my best friend and father to our children. Atop this urn, stands the triangular shape of the Alaska state flag. These are some of the most cherished items nobody wants to have. However, there are a few gifts that are special and meaningful if not to me but to our daughters. They may not provide comfort initially but after the strong initial grief subsides, one realizes the thoughtfulness that went into the gifts and honors.

The most important act we can do is to take care of that officer's surviving family. That is our fiduciary duty after the ultimate sacrifice. If providing the surviving family and/or officer with a medal to recognize their oath and extraordinary efforts on behalf of the state of Alaska brings one miniscule of comfort then I support the idea. With that being said, I would like to recommend a process to the committee and/or Commissioner of Department of Public Safety on proper presentation to next of kin for the North Star Medal if this bill were to pass.

Sincerely,

Brandy Johnson

Surviving Spouse of Sgt. Scott Johnson



*Ethan Berkowitz,
Mayor*

ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Headquarters
4501 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1599
Telephone (907) 786-8500 / Fax (907) 786-8638



*Chris Tolley
Chief*

Representative Kreiss-Tomkins

The Anchorage Police Department would like to voice our support for the North Star Medal. Alaska's first responders place themselves in harm's way on a daily basis, which occasionally results in injury or death. Recognizing these heroes for their courage serving their community is a meaningful show of appreciation for their sacrifice. I have the privilege to work with several officers that have been seriously injured in the line of duty - many of whom tirelessly fight to return to work where they continue placing others above themselves. In every case, these heroic officers do not expect, or even want recognition for their work. Thank you for taking the time to formally recognize these men and woman.

Sincerely,

Acting Deputy Chief Sean Case
Anchorage Police Department



500 W. International Airport Road
P.O. Box 230330, Anchorage, AK 99523
907-561-7500 | www.apdea.net

April 17th, 2017

The Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Alaska State House of Representatives
Room 411, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins-

I am writing this letter on behalf of the more than 500 members of the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association in support of HB235. These are men and women who come to work each day with the desire and expectation to make Anchorage a better place to live, work and play. During the commission of their duties, they are sometimes placed in grave danger in an effort to save a life. In the last ten years, we have had three Officers shot, several other Officers shot at, and yet more Officers stabbed; fortunately, all have survived and continue to work in their capacity as a Police Officer.

Thank you for putting forth a bill to honor first responders who show their dedication in extraordinary ways and desire nothing more than to help the Citizens of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Brian Wilson | APDEA President
president@apdea.org | www.apdea.net
PO Box 230330, Anchorage AK 99523



ALASKA CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

"Walking Alaska's Toughest Beat"

April 17, 2017

The Honorable Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
State of Alaska
Room 411 Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Letter of Support for HB 235

Representative Kreiss-Tomkins,

The Alaska Correctional Officers Association supports your proposed amendment of AS 44.09.095, to recognize Correctional Officers, other Peace Officers, Firefighters, First Responders, or members of a volunteer search and rescue group who die or are seriously injured in the line of duty and who have displayed exceptional bravery or heroism while performing their duties. As Peace Officers, Alaska's Correctional Officers place their lives on the line 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. Unfortunately, at times Correctional Officers and other Law Enforcement Officers around the State are seriously injured on duty, and in rare instances, lose their lives while performing their jobs. While nothing can replace a brave life lost or one that has been forever altered significantly by substantial on-the-job injuries, public recognition of the sacrifice that they have made will provide some consolation to surviving relatives and the injured workers who are recipients of the North Star Medal.

We appreciate the steps this legislation takes to recognize our brave and selfless women and men who work in public safety.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Randy McLellan
ACOA President



Public Safety Employees Association, Inc.
"Representing Alaska's Finest"
A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 803



Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Chair, House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Re: Support for North Star Medal legislation

Dear Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins:

I am writing you on behalf of PSEA/AFSCME's 800 state and municipal police employee members working throughout Alaska. Our membership includes Alaska State Troopers, Anchorage and Fairbanks Airport Police Officers and Firefighters, Alaska Court Service Officers, Alaska Deputy Fire Marshalls, and Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Fairbanks, Soldotna, Dillingham and Unalaska police department employees. Many of our members are also trained search and rescue professionals.

In the last four years alone, PSEA tragically lost four members in acts of valor and heroism. In March 2013, Alaska State Trooper Tage Toll died in helicopter accident rescuing a stranded Alaskan. In May of 2014, Alaska State Trooper Scott Johnson and Trooper Gabe Rich were murdered protecting the people of Tanana, Alaska. In October of 2016, responding to a citizen call for help, Fairbanks Police Department Sgt. Alan Brandt was ambushed, shot multiple times and eventually died due to his injuries. Prior to 2013, we lost many other members in similar situations. These are only the most recent losses. Over time, Alaska has lost too many heroes.

The North Star Medal you propose will recognize the bravery and valor of our lost heroes. Troopers Toll, Johnson, Rich, and Officer Brandt share one important fact in common: they all ran towards danger to help and protect Alaskans. Other Alaskan peace officers, firefighters, EMTs and Search and Rescue professionals do the same every day. Their acts of bravery and valor in the service of their fellow citizens deserve recognition and honor. This award is a lasting way for Alaska to show that honor to the surviving spouse, survivors, co-workers and the citizens helped by Alaska's fallen heroes.

Thank you very much for proposing this legislation. We hope that the Alaska State Legislature passes this bill quickly. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Jake Metcalfe
Executive Director
PSEA/AFSCME Local 803



CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
ALASKA'S CAPITAL CITY

OFFICE OF THE MANAGER

Telephone: (907) 586-5240; Fax: (907) 586-5385
Rorie.Watt@juneau.org

April 14, 2017

The Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Alaska State House of Representatives
Room 411, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

I understand that you are working on legislation for an award for Alaska peace officers, firefighters, EMT, SAR and other first responders killed or injured in the line of duty, which will be called the **North Star Medal**. I understand that the idea would be that it would be an award for showing extraordinary valor.

I am wholeheartedly supportive of this idea. I am prepared to support this type of legislation. Thank you for your contributions to the citizens of Alaska, and thank you for your efforts to recognize the personal risks that our first responders face.

Sincerely,

Duncan Rorie Watt
City and Borough Manager

JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

6255 ALAWAY AVE. • JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

BRYCE JOHNSON
CHIEF OF POLICE

Alaska's Capital City

BUSINESS (907) 586-0600
FAX (907) 586-4030

April 17, 2017

The Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Alaska State House of Representatives
Room 411, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

I am writing in support of the Act creating the North Star Medal. As the Chief of Police for the City and Borough of Juneau, it is my honor to interact with brave police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and search and rescue personnel. I see firsthand how these dedicated professionals risk their own lives in the service of others.

I have seen police officers move towards danger, even gunfire, to protect the innocent. I have seen police officers climb over the railing of a bridge to pull a citizen to safety. I watched a firefighter don a ballistic vest and run to assist the police officers who were in harm's way. These brave individuals show extraordinary valor, and all efforts on our part to recognize their heroic contributions to our society are appropriate and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Bryce Johnson
Chief of Police



Alaska International Airport System
Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport
Fairbanks International Airport

6450 Airport Way, Suite 1
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
Main: 907.474.2500
Fax: 907.474.2513

April 15, 2017

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Room 411, Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins:

Thank you for drafting legislation to create the North Star Medal for peace officers, firefighters, and other first responders killed or injured in the line of duty.

In my position as both a Police Chief and Fire Chief, I have been blessed to be able to work with so many of the professional and selfless men and women of the emergency responder family throughout Alaska. Sadly in recent years I have helped coordinate multiple processions as our wounded or fallen Alaskan heroes have traveled through the Fairbanks International Airport. There are no words to describe the enormity of the impact that these events have had on the responder's families, the responder's co-workers, and the community.

The community impact of these tragic events was never more evident as when I was the Marshal for Sergeant Allen Brandt's procession when he returned to Fairbanks after he gallantly gave his life protecting his community. Setting up for the procession, the Fairbanks Police Department officers and their vehicles were parked in such a way to allow privacy and respect their grieving process. Neighborhood residents wanting to show their respects began walking into the area. The pain and grief on the faces of the Fairbanks officers was obvious and the residents immediately realized that this was a hallowed time and place. I told them not to leave and directed them to huddle beside my patrol car, where they could pay their respects and respect the privacy of the grieving officers. Out of view, these wonderful members of the community grieved in silence with their officers. After the procession passed and the Fairbanks officers returned to their vehicles and fell in line, these families appeared from behind my vehicle walking towards me sobbing with their arms outstretched. Even though we were strangers, we all embraced and these beautiful people expressed their sincere thanks for all emergency responders in a way that will be etched in my memory forever.

I am writing this letter of support for the North Star Medal because the great people of the State of Alaska need the ability to bestow an award as a symbol of their deep respect for emergency responders injured or killed as they vigilantly and courageously protect the community in which they live and love. The North Star Medal is the perfect name.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean J. Martines

Chief of Police and Fire, Fairbanks International Airport

"Keep Alaska Flying and Thriving."



ALASKA SEARCH and RESCUE ASSOCIATION

ASARA • PO Box 233276 Anchorage, Alaska 99523 • alaskasar@gmail.com

On the Internet: www.alaskasar.org

April 18, 2017

HB 235 - Act to Create the North Star Medal Letter of Support

Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Alaska State House of Representatives
Room 411, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

On behalf of over 750 search and rescue volunteers across the state of Alaska, the Alaska Search and Rescue Association supports HB235 and the creation of the North Star Medal.

Alaska is home to some of the world's most unforgiving and harsh environments. This week there was someone lost or missing somewhere in Alaska. Last week was the same and next week will be as well.

Whether these lost or missing individuals are hunters, trappers, fisherman, recreationists, or travelers, there are volunteers in every region of Alaska who step up and help our Alaska State Troopers and local authorities search miles and miles of waterways, wilderness areas, avalanches, and urban areas. Although safety practices and precautions are followed rigorously, these volunteers are put at additional risk of injury and harm by the nature of the activity, search and rescue.

SAR volunteers leave their families, their jobs, their lives behind when called upon and they do so without hesitation. At the same time, most SAR volunteers are not looking for recognition for their efforts or time. Yet, it seems appropriate that this award be available should the most awful event occur, and an accident or tragic event takes the life of one of our SAR volunteers. This form or recognition would help honor the sacrifice and loss of loved ones who gave their lives "so... others may live."

Sincerely,

Corey Aist, President
Alaska Search and Rescue Association

Griffin Plush

From: Bob Lynn <boblynn@alaskan.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2018 11:34 PM
To: Griffin Plush
Subject: BOB LYNN TESTIMONY

The Honorable Senator Kevin Meyers

Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee

And Members of the Committee

I was at the Anchorage LIO on Tuesday to testify in strong support of HB135, the North Starr Medal. Unfortunately, you had to adjourn early so the bill unable to be heard, and t's now unlikely I'll be able to testify because of personal travel. However, the following is what I had planned to testify:

TESTIMONY

"Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee:

My name is Bob Lynn, and I live in south

Anchorage. I want to thank the Committee Chair, and all the committee Members, for hearing this bill today.

In the military there's a medal that too many deserve but nobody wants. It's called the "The Purple Heart," and it's awarded for being wounded or killed in action defending America..

We need to likewise honor, right here in Alaska, our law enforcement, firefighters, and other first responders for suffering

wounds or death protecting us, our loved ones, and all Alaskans. Like the Purple Heart, it would be a medal nobody would want, but too many would deserve.

Our legislature is hard at work on many important issues Thank you. Honoring those who suffer wounds or death protecting us is also important. It's the least we can do.

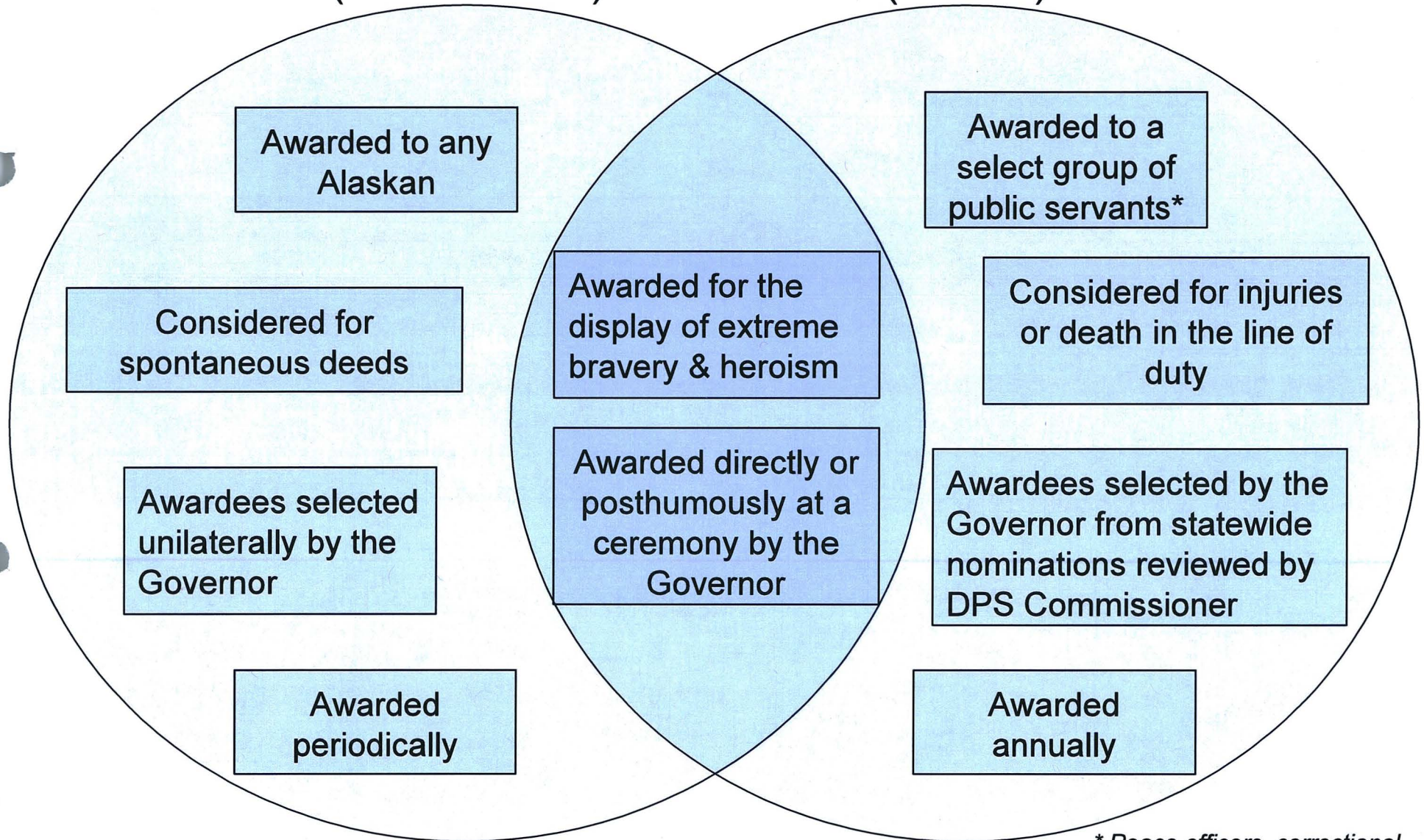
Yes, I confess, I do have a special interest in this bill. I was raised by a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff. My brother is a retired Hollywood detective lieutenant. I have a grandson who is a cop, and another grandson applying to be a cop. And I myself was a cop many years ago in Tucson, Arizona. By the Grace of God, none of our family were ever wounded or killed. But we had comrades who were. And they should have been awarded the special recognition of a medal by their state, as comrades are in our military are awarded the Purple Heart by a grateful nation.

I urge you to pass this bill out of committee. And let it get to the Senate floor before the end of session. Thank you for your help.

BOB LYNN

AK Medal for Heroism (AS 44.09.090)

North Star Medal (HB 235)



HB 235 NORTH STAR MEDAL

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

What does this bill do?

Amends AS 44.09 to authorize the Governor to award the North Star Medal directly or posthumously to any:

- Peace officer
- Correctional officer
- Firefighter,
- First responder
- Member of a volunteer/rescue group

Who dies or is seriously injured in the line of duty and has displayed exceptional bravery or heroism while performing those duties. Nominations are submitted to the commissioner of public safety. The Governor chooses, not more than annually.

Potential Issues:

Gives another 'award' the Governor can give. Why do we need this bill, couldn't the Governor just do this? Similar to the First Lady's annual volunteerism award?

Legislative History

This was former Rep. Bob Lynn's idea.

Fiscal Impact: 0

QUESTIONS:

- Why hasn't this passed previously? Have you listed to testimony in previous years when this bill was before the legislature?
- Who pays for the actual award? Will this be part of the Governor's responsibility since he awards this?
- The bill says that a ceremony will not take place more than once a year, do you envision this as something that is awarded a year or two after an incident?
- It has the division of public safety commissioner recommended awardees, might there be more than one or two each year?

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 235
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB235CS(STA)-DPS-COMM-04-05-18
Title: NORTH STAR MEDAL
Sponsor: KREISS-TOMKINS
Requester: (S) STA

Department: Department of Public Safety
Appropriation: Statewide Support
Allocation: Commissioner's Office
OMB Component Number: 523

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2019 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2019 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Updated for 2nd session to accurately reflect FY2019 and out year costs.

Prepared By:	Kelly Howell, Administrative Services Director	Phone:	(907)465-4336
Division:	Administrative Services	Date:	04/05/2018
Approved By:	Walt Monegan, Commissioner	Date:	04/05/18
Agency:	Department of Public Safety		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

**STATE OF ALASKA
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HB 235

Analysis

This legislation amends AS 44.09 by adding a new section creating the North Star Medal to be awarded by the Governor to certain individuals who die or are seriously injured in the line of duty. Nominations for the North Star Medal shall be submitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and, after reviewing nominations, the DPS Commissioner shall submit the name or names of persons recommended for the North Star Medal to the Governor for approval.

Passage of this legislation will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Public Safety. No additional resources would be needed to perform the activities of reviewing nominations and submitting recommendations for the North Star Medal. Therefore, a zero fiscal note is being submitted.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 235
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB235-DPS-COM-04-17-17
Title: NORTH STAR MEDAL
Sponsor: KREISS-TOMKINS
Requester: (H) STA

Department: Department of Public Safety
Appropriation: Statewide Support
Allocation: Commissioner's Office
OMB Component Number: 523

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2018 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Kelly Howell
Division: Administrative Services
Approved By: Walt Monegan
Agency: Public Safety

Phone: (907)465-4336
Date: 04/17/2017 02:30 PM
Date: 04/17/17

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

**STATE OF ALASKA
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HB 235

Analysis

This legislation amends AS 44.09 by adding a new section creating the North Star Medal to be awarded by the Governor to certain individuals who die or are seriously injured in the line of duty. Nominations for the North Star Medal shall be submitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and, after reviewing nominations, the DPS Commissioner shall submit the name or names of persons recommended for the North Star Medal to the Governor for approval.

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