



ARIZONA STATE SENATE

Fifty-First Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1313

arizona gold star military medal

Purpose

Modifies regulations pertaining to the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal (Medal).

Background

Current statute awards the Medal to an individual who was killed in action while serving with the U.S. or an ally of the U.S. beginning and after September 11, 2001, and who meets the following eligibility requirements: 1) The individual was a member of the Arizona National Guard or U.S. military reserves and was a legal Arizona resident at the time of death; 2) The individual was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who was a legal Arizona resident at the time of death and stationed in Arizona by a proper order; or 3) The individual was a member of the Arizona National Guard, U.S. military reserve or U.S. Armed Forces who attended a public or private educational institution in Arizona at some point during their life.

Statute allows the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) to award the Medal, on request of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, if funding is available. State General Fund monies are prohibited from being used in the design, manufacture or production of the Medal.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires ADVS to establish an application process and verify the eligibility of Medal recipients.
2. Antedates the Medal eligibility time period from September 11, 2001, to February 14, 1912.
3. Specifies that eligibility for the Medal extends to those who died of non-self-inflicted causes while deployed in support of a combat operation.
4. Removes the following stipulations concerning Medal eligibility:
 - a) that a member of the U.S. Armed Forces be stationed in Arizona at the time of death; and
 - b) that a member of the Arizona National Guard, U.S. Armed Forces or reserve attended an Arizona public or private educational institution at some period during their life.

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5. Eliminates the requirement that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives request the Medal to be awarded, and instead awards the Medal on verification of an individual's eligibility based on the application submitted by an individual's family member.
6. Requires applications submitted by an individual's family member to include a copy of a military issued report of casualty, and proof of Arizona residency and the applicant's relationship to the individual.
7. Makes technical and conforming changes.
8. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

February 10, 2014

JT/TL/tf