

HOUSE BILL NO. 491

INTRODUCED BY S. GUNDERSON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "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:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Recognition of meritorious service on retirement. (1) The highway patrol chief ~~may~~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:

~~(1)(A)~~ served meritoriously for a minimum of ~~15 years~~ 20 YEARS and must be so honored; OR
~~(2)(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.

NEW SECTION. 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].

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

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