

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 20-0780.01 Conrad Imel x2313

**SENATE BILL 20-082**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hisey and Todd,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Landgraf and Lontine,**

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**Senate Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING AWARDS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND**  
102 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill creates the Colorado legion of merit medal, which may be awarded by the department of military and veterans affairs (department) to any person who has rendered service in a clearly exceptional, unprecedented, or superior manner. The bill makes changes regarding eligibility and criteria for certain medals awarded by the department and repeals awards that are duplicative of other department or federal awards.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 28-3-1201 as  
3 follows:

4           **28-3-1201. Long service medal.** ~~A medal, designated as the "long~~  
5 ~~service medal", shall be awarded each officer and enlisted person of the~~  
6 ~~National Guard of Colorado who has served honestly and faithfully in any~~  
7 ~~organization or department of the National Guard of Colorado, in state or~~  
8 ~~federal service, for a period of ten years, not necessarily consecutive, and,~~  
9 ~~for every period of five years thereafter, there shall be awarded a suitable~~  
10 ~~bar to be worn on the ribbon of the medal.~~

11           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-3-1202 as  
12 follows:

13           **28-3-1202. Meritorious conduct medal.** THE DEPARTMENT MAY  
14 AWARD a medal, designated as the "meritorious conduct medal", ~~shall be~~  
15 ~~awarded each officer and enlisted person of the National Guard of~~  
16 ~~Colorado who, when on an active duty status not in the~~ TO ANY PERSON  
17 SERVING IN ANY CAPACITY IN OR WITH THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING IN OR  
18 WITH THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD, WHO, WHEN ON ANY DUTY  
19 STATUS EXCEPT federal service, distinguishes himself or herself by  
20 extraordinary heroism or ~~has endangered his or her life in~~ BY saving the  
21 ~~lives of others~~ LIFE OF ANOTHER BY PHYSICAL ACTION OR BY PROVIDING  
22 SUBSTANTIAL MEDICAL TREATMENT OF AN INJURY THAT, HAD TREATMENT  
23 NOT BEEN ADMINISTERED, WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN THE PERSON'S  
24 DEATH. A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT AWARD IS DENOTED BY A BRONZE  
25 OAK-LEAF CLUSTER.

26           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-3-1203 as

1 follows:

2 **28-3-1203. Meritorious service medal.** THE DEPARTMENT MAY  
3 AWARD a medal, designated as the "meritorious service medal", ~~shall be~~  
4 ~~awarded~~ TO any person serving in any capacity in or with, ~~the National~~  
5 ~~Guard of Colorado who~~ OR ANY PERSON ACTING IN SUPPORT OF, ANY  
6 DIVISION OR OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE COLORADO  
7 NATIONAL GUARD, WHO, WHEN ON ANY DUTY STATUS EXCEPT FEDERAL  
8 SERVICE, distinguishes himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious  
9 service ~~for the state of Colorado~~ TO THE DEPARTMENT.

10 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-3-1204 as  
11 follows:

12 **28-3-1204. Active service medal.** THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD  
13 a medal, designated as the "active service medal", ~~shall be awarded~~ to any  
14 person WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY AND ~~who is serving with~~  
15 ~~or has served with the National Guard of Colorado in any campaign or~~  
16 ~~period of federal active duty under call or order of the president of the~~  
17 ~~United States. This medal shall be awarded pursuant to regulations issued~~  
18 ~~by the adjutant general. A clasp showing the dates only of such active~~  
19 ~~service will be worn on the ribbon of the medal, and there shall be one~~  
20 ~~clasp for each separate period of active service.~~ IN OR WITH ANY DIVISION  
21 OR OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING IN THE COLORADO NATIONAL  
22 GUARD IN STATE OR FEDERAL SERVICE, FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS. THE  
23 TEN YEARS OF SERVICE DO NOT NEED TO BE CONSECUTIVE. FOR EACH  
24 SUBSEQUENT PERIOD OF TEN YEARS OF SERVICE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY  
25 AWARD THE INDIVIDUAL A BRONZE KNOT TO BE WORN ON THE RIBBON OF  
26 THE MEDAL.

27 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 28-3-1204.5 as

1 follows:

2 **28-3-1204.5. Colorado legion of merit medal.** (1) (a) THE  
3 DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD A MEDAL, DESIGNATED AS THE "COLORADO  
4 LEGION OF MERIT MEDAL", TO ANY MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT,  
5 INCLUDING THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD, WHO HAS RENDERED  
6 SERVICE IN A CLEARLY EXCEPTIONAL, UNPRECEDENTED, OR SUPERIOR  
7 MANNER IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT AND WHO HAS SERVED IN A  
8 POSITION OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP OR SENIOR COMMAND, HAS  
9 DEMONSTRATED SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITY, SERVED IN A POSITION OF  
10 EXTREMELY DIFFICULT DUTY, OR WAS A KEY INDIVIDUAL IN MISSION OR  
11 DUTY SUCCESS.

12 (b) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PRESENT THE COLORADO LEGION OF  
13 MERIT MEDAL UPON THE MEMBER'S RETIREMENT OR THE COMPLETION OF  
14 ANY ASSIGNMENT, MISSION, OR SERVICE.

15 (2) THE ADJUTANT GENERAL MAY AWARD THE COLORADO LEGION  
16 OF MERIT MEDAL TO A PERSON WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE  
17 DEPARTMENT WHO HAS RENDERED SERVICE IN A CLEARLY EXCEPTIONAL,  
18 UNPRECEDENTED, OR SUPERIOR MANNER IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT.

19 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-3-1205 as  
20 follows:

21 **28-3-1205. Lapel button.** THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, UPON  
22 REQUEST AND WITHOUT COST, GIVE a lapel button denoting membership  
23 in the Colorado National Guard ~~shall be given without cost to every~~ ANY  
24 actively participating officer and enlisted person.

25 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 28-3-1208 as  
26 follows:

27 **28-3-1208. Noncommissioned officer/soldier/airman of the**

1 **year ribbon.** ~~(1) A ribbon, designated as the "noncommissioned~~  
2 ~~officer/soldier/airman of the year ribbon", shall be awarded each year to~~  
3 ~~five members of the National Guard of Colorado selected through both~~  
4 ~~the Army and air command channels. The five recipients shall be as~~  
5 ~~follows:~~

- 6 ~~(a) An Army noncommissioned officer;~~
- 7 ~~(b) An Army enlisted soldier;~~
- 8 ~~(c) An air senior noncommissioned officer;~~
- 9 ~~(d) An air noncommissioned officer; and~~
- 10 ~~(e) An airman.~~

11 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 28-3-1213 as  
12 follows:

13 **28-3-1213. Foreign deployment service ribbon.** ~~A ribbon,~~  
14 ~~designated as the "foreign deployment service ribbon", shall be awarded~~  
15 ~~to any member of the National Guard of Colorado who has satisfactorily~~  
16 ~~served the state and nation on a deployment to a foreign country for a~~  
17 ~~continuous period of at least four days.~~

18 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 28-3-1214 as  
19 follows:

20 **28-3-1214. State mobilization support ribbon.** ~~A ribbon,~~  
21 ~~designated as the "state mobilization support ribbon", shall be awarded to~~  
22 ~~members of the National Guard of Colorado and other persons or~~  
23 ~~organizations who have, through their own outstanding and exemplary~~  
24 ~~actions, attitude, efforts, and service, supported the mobilization of units~~  
25 ~~of the National Guard of Colorado when called to serve their country.~~  
26 ~~These actions may include support in returning units to state control upon~~  
27 ~~demobilization.~~

1           **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 28-3-1216  
2 as follows:

3           **28-3-1216. Command tour ribbon.** ~~A ribbon, designated as the~~  
4 ~~"command tour ribbon", shall be awarded to a command sergeant major,~~  
5 ~~a command chief, or a first sergeant who has been or is currently assigned~~  
6 ~~to one of those designated positions for a period of not less than~~  
7 ~~twenty-four months and who meets any additional criteria established by~~  
8 ~~the adjutant general in military regulations.~~

9           **SECTION 11. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
10 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
11 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
12 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a  
13 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
14 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
15 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
16 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
17 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.