

SUBJECT: Awards for certain military members who served in Iraq or Afghanistan

COMMITTEE: Defense and Veterans Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Pickett, Sheffield, Berman, Farias, Flynn, Landtroop, Perry, Scott

0 nays

1 absent — V. Taylor

WITNESSES: For — Ray Lindner, National Guard Association of Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: John Miterko, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations)

Against — None

On — Patrick Hamilton, Texas Military Forces; (*Registered, but did not testify*: A. Duane Waddill, Adjutant General's Department)

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 431.134 allows the adjutant general to adopt rules and regulations for the issuance of 12 different military service medals including the: Texas Faithful Service Medal, Federal Service Medal, Texas Medal of Merit, Texas Outstanding Service Medal, Texas State Guard Service Medal, Texas Desert Shield/Desert Storm Campaign Medal, Texas Humanitarian Service Medal, Texas Calvary Medal, Texas Combat Service Ribbon, Texas Purple Heart Medal, Texas Superior Service Medal, and Texas Homeland Defense Service Medal.

DIGEST: CSHB 973 would allow the adjutant general to adopt rules and regulations for issuance of the Texas Iraqi Campaign Medal and the Texas Afghanistan Campaign Medal for service during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, or Operation Enduring Freedom.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2011.

NOTES:

The Legislative Budget Board determined in the fiscal note that the bill would cost the state a total of \$58,000 in general revenue over the next five fiscal years based on a cost of \$3.50 per medal multiplied by the estimated number of those who would qualify.