



H.R. 4056 – FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY ACT OF 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4056 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Brad Ellsworth (D-IN) on November 1, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, but was never considered.

H.R. 4056 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 11, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 4056 authorizes the Attorney General to award a Congressional Badge of Bravery to any federal law enforcement officer who suffers a physical injury in the line of duty on or after January 1, 2007. To be nominated for the Badge, an individual must be a federal law enforcement officer nominated by his agency head, and have sustained an injury in the line of duty resulting from conduct characterized by the nominating agency head as a display of bravery.

The bill establishes a Congressional Badge of Bravery Board to recommend individuals for the badge, and a Congressional Badge of Bravery Office to assist the Board. The Attorney General or a Member of Congress are authorized to present the Badge to recipients. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

BACKGROUND

According to the Department of Justice, since 2002, an average of 150 officers per year have sustained physical injuries as a result of encounters with assaultive subjects. Over 70 federal agencies employ federal law enforcement officers, but only two of these agencies have awards to recognize officers who are injured in the line of duty.

Currently, there is no Congressional award to honor federal law enforcement officers injured in the line of duty. A seven member board that receives nominations from agency heads would select honorees annually, and each honoree would receive a Badge presented to them by the Attorney General or the member of Congress for the honoree's congressional district.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

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