



## S. 2565 – LAW ENFORCEMENT CONGRESSIONAL BADGE OF BRAVERY ACT OF 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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S. 2565 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 Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) on January 29, 2008. The bill passed the Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent on June 26, 2008.

S. 2565 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 22, 2008.

*\*\*\*Note: The House version of this legislation, H.R. 4056, passed the House, as amended, by voice vote on April 15, 2008.*

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### SUMMARY

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S. 2565 authorizes the Attorney General to award a Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery to a federal law enforcement officer who has performed an act of bravery while in the line of duty and has been cited by the Attorney General for doing so. Additionally, the bill authorizes the Attorney General to award a State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery to state and local law enforcement officers who have been similarly cited, unlike H.R. 4056, which only recognizes Federal officers.

*\*\*\*Note: While H.R. 4056 is largely similar to S. 2565, some differences exist between the two bills. For example, under H.R. 4056, no badge is to be awarded within 60 days of a congressional election while no such prohibition exists under S. 2565.*

The bill requires that all nominated officers have sustained a physical injury while performing an act of bravery, or been at risk of sustaining a serious physical injury or death while performing an act of bravery in the line of duty. Badges may be presented by Members of Congress to recipients residing in their District.

The legislation establishes a Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board within the Department of Justice. The Board is to design a badge and have it produced, and recommend recipients of the award.

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### BACKGROUND

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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. Since 2002, an annual average of 150 officers have sustained physical injuries as a result of encounters with assaultive subjects in the line of duty.

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### COST

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The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing S. 2565 would cost less than \$500,000 annually. [Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 4056](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

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For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.