

EXPAND INCLUSION CRITERIA FOR MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL MONUMENT

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Senate Bill 321 as reported from House committee

Sponsor: Sen. Kimberly LaSata

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Judiciary and Public Safety

Complete to 9-23-20

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 321 would amend the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Act to expand the criteria for including individuals on the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument.

In 2004, the act created the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument Fund Commission to oversee the financing, design, and construction of a memorial monument dedicated to law enforcement officers from Michigan who died in the line of duty. The commission was also required to solicit designs for the memorial monument and select the final design. The name of each *law enforcement officer* who died in the line of duty is inscribed on the monument.

Law enforcement officer means that term as defined in the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) Act.¹ It includes state and local police officers, sheriffs and sheriff deputies, certain tribal law enforcement officers, the sergeants at arms of the legislature, conservation officers of the Department of Natural Resources, and several other individuals who are employed by law enforcement agencies in specified capacities. The term excludes reserve officers and certain other specified employees and volunteers.

The bill would amend the act to dedicate the memorial monument to *all* of the following individuals and provide that their names shall be inscribed on the monument:

- Each law enforcement officer and reserve law enforcement officer from Michigan who died in the line of duty.
- Each individual from Michigan who qualifies as an officer who died in the line of duty for purposes of inclusion on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial authorized by Public Law 98-534.²

MCL 28.785

¹ See <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-28-602.pdf>

² See https://nleomf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/criteria_for_inclusion_12_10_15.pdf

BACKGROUND:

According to the State of Michigan website, the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument is intended to provide a place to gather and pay tribute to Michigan law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty.³ The monument is located in the Veterans Memorial Park, at the corner of Allegan Street and Butler Boulevard, directly south of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in downtown Lansing. The site location was chosen in 2006, while the design was chosen in 2007 and modified in 2017. Construction of the monument began in 2018, and a dedication ceremony was held on July 27, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on state or local government.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill (9-8-20):

Michigan Department of Corrections

Michigan State Police

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

³ For more information, see <https://www.michigan.gov/mleom/>.