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S.F. No. 3223 – Peace Officer Bonus Program for Exemplary Service

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Section 1, subdivision 1 authorizes the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board to award bonus payments to eligible peace officers. To be eligible for a bonus payment, the officer must have been nominated by the chief law enforcement officer of the agency employing the officer. The Board shall develop nomination forms and guidelines for bonus payment eligibility. Final decisions on the actual awarding and amount of the individual bonuses are at the discretion of the Board and are limited to the funds appropriated for this purpose.

Subdivision 2 authorizes the Board to award bonuses for exemplary service that goes above and beyond the call of duty, including but not limited to acts of heroism or valor. The Board may also award bonuses for recognition of meritorious service in which the recipient officer has served for a minimum of five years without having any adverse disciplinary actions taken against the officer. Individual bonus payments may not exceed \$10,000.

Subdivision 3 requires the Board, by January 15 of each year, to report to the legislature on bonuses awarded, including the amount of each bonus, the agency employing the recipient, and the reason for the award.

Section 2 is a blank appropriation in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund to the POST Board for the purposes of the bill. The Board may use up to 3.5 percent of this appropriation to administer the program.