

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

BILL: SM 226

INTRODUCER: Senator Wright

SUBJECT: Florida National Guard

DATE: December 5, 2023

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Proctor</u>	<u>MS</u>	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SM 226 is a memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to impel the United States National Guard Bureau to review resource allocations to the Florida National Guard and allow an increase to the state's force structure.

The memorial requires the Secretary of State to dispatch copies to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

A memorial is an official legislative document addressed to Congress, the President of the United States, or some other governmental entity that expresses the will of the Legislature on a matter within the jurisdiction of the recipient. A memorial requires passage by both legislative houses but does not require the Governor's approval nor is it subject to a veto.

II. Present Situation:

National Guard and the National Guard Bureau

The National Defense Act of 1916¹ established the National Guard Bureau as a separate unit of the militia division of the federal government.² In 1948, the Secretary of Defense of the United States Department of Defense issued an order designating the National Guard Bureau as a joint bureau of the Departments of the Army and Air Force.³ Today, the National Guard Bureau oversees each of the 54 National Guards in U.S. states and territories.⁴

¹ National Defense Act of 1916, Pub. L. 64-85 (June 3, 1916).

² National Archives, *Guide to Federal Records, Records of the National Guard Bureau (NGB)*, available at <https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/168.html> (last visited Nov. 8, 2023).

³ *Id.* Section 250.01(13), F.S.

⁴ Air Force, *Air National Guard*, available at <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/104546/air-national-guard/> (last visited Nov. 8, 2023).

The National Guard is unique among militia in that it serves the country in both the local community and overseas. The dual mission of a Guard member means that each member serves through both the National Guard of the state and through the U.S. Army or the U.S. Air Force.⁵ The collective membership of each National Guard is designated as its force structure. The force structure of each National Guard is allocated by the National Guard Bureau.⁶

Florida National Guard

The Florida National Guard dates back to 1565, when Spanish founders of St. Augustine organized a company of citizen-soldiers to protect the local community.⁷ A member of the Florida National Guard serves either in the state Army National Guard or in the state Air National Guard, considered a reserve component of each of those armed forces.⁸ Overseeing the National Guard as a federally-recognized officer, the adjutant general is appointed by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation.⁹ The adjutant general, responsible for training and operations of the National Guard, must have served in the Florida National Guard for the preceding 5 years and attained the rank of colonel or higher.¹⁰ Ranked above adjutant general is the Governor, who serves as commander-in-chief of all militia in the state.¹¹

Recent Duties of the Florida National Guard

From January to November of 2023, Florida National Guard members have been mobilized to multiple overseas deployments and assigned to assist and respond to:

- Hurricane Idalia response;
- Migration support; and
- State corrections support.¹²

Since September 11, 2001, Florida National Guard members have mobilized to respond to out-of-state and overseas operations at a rate of over 28,000 deployments.¹³

Demographics

The force structure of the Florida National Guard is comprised of more than 12,000 members¹⁴, while Florida is the third most-populous state¹⁵, estimated at more than 22 million residents.¹⁶ This force structure in proportion to the state population ranks Florida 53rd out of the 54 states

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ 10 U.S.C. s. 10503(1).

⁷ Dep't of Military Affairs, *Home*, available at <https://dma.myflorida.com/> (last visited Nov. 8, 2023).

⁸ Sections 250.01(3), (6), and (13), F.S.

⁹ Section 250.10(1), F.S.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Section 250.06(1), F.S.

¹² Major General John D. Haas, Florida National Guard, Dep't of Military Affairs, PowerPoint, *Florida National Guard, Dep't of Military Affairs, Senate Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security*, pp. 6-7 (Nov. 14, 2023) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

¹³ *Id.* at 5.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 4.

¹⁵ United States Census Bureau, *Quick Facts, Florida*, available at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/dashboard/FL,US/PST045222> (last visited Nov. 15, 2023).

¹⁶ *Id.*

and territories of the United States that have a National Guard.¹⁷ Along with the state's low positioning of Florida National Guard members to current population, Florida is expected to increase in population by five million over the next 10 years.¹⁸ Moreover, Florida ranks as the 4th most disaster-prone state nationally.¹⁹

Congressional Support for Increased Funding and Allocation

On March 24, 2021, members of the Florida Congressional Delegation sent a written request to both the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.²⁰ In their request, Congress members asked for more equitable funding and resource allocation for the Florida National Guard. These members of Congress based their request on the disproportionality between the state population compared to the size of the structure force, along with the state's unique vulnerability to continuing disasters.²¹ Specifically, Congressional members specified that if force structure were proportional, the Florida National Guard would have 21,000, rather than 12,000 Guard members.²²

On June 1, 2021, members of Congress representing California, Texas, and Florida sent a written request to the Secretary of Defense for an increased allocation for the National Guard particular to these states.²³ In support, Congressional members cite that California, Texas, and Florida rank at the lowest level of structure force to population and at the top for highest percentage of largest counties in the United States, and that these states expect to receive a disproportionate future increase in migration.²⁴

Memorial

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III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill is a memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to impel the United States National Guard Bureau to review resource allocations to the Florida National Guard and allow an increase to the state's force structure.

¹⁷ Dep't of Military Affairs, *2023 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis (SM 226)*(on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Letter from members of the Florida Congressional Delegation to Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III, U.S. Dep't of Defense and Chief Daniel R. Hokanson, National Guard Bureau, March 24, 2021 (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Id.*

²³ Letter from members of the California, Texas, and Florida Congressional Delegations to Secretary Lloyd Austin, U.S. Dep't of Defense, June 1, 2021 (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

²⁴ *Id.*

The memorial requires the Secretary of State to dispatch copies to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Because the bill is a memorial, there is no mandated fiscal impact. However, should the state receive an increase in Florida National Guard members, the state may incur an indeterminate initial cost of activating additional Florida National Guard members based on training and equipment costs.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

None.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
