

By Senator Wright

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to impel the National Guard Bureau to
examine the present allocations of the Florida
National Guard and allow an increase in its force
structure.

WHEREAS, the number of soldiers and airmen allocated to
each state's National Guard, known as its "force structure," is
determined by the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., and

WHEREAS, with approximately 21 million residents, Florida
is the third most populous state in the nation but has a force
structure of just over 12,000 Guardsmen, and its ratio of one
Guardman for every 1,833 residents ranks 53rd among the 54
states and territories of the United States which have a
National Guard component, and

WHEREAS, due to the unprecedented events of 2020 and 2021,
including COVID-19 response, natural disasters, and overseas
deployments, the Florida National Guard expended the same number
of workdays in 18 months as it had expended during the previous
20 years, and

WHEREAS, the Florida National Guard continues to meet its
mission goals; however, the shortage of these invaluable
"citizen soldiers," combined with the state's growing population
and increased need for National Guard activation and response,
has resulted in the repeated redeployment of the same soldiers,
which ultimately leads to excessive stress and fatigue and
negatively impacts recruitment, retention, and readiness, and

WHEREAS, the National Guard Bureau's report titled "Impact

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of U.S. Population Trends on National Guard Force Structure," released to Congress in April 2021, acknowledges the aforementioned concerns within Florida and other regions, stating that "the National Guard may need to evaluate reallocating mission sets to other geographic areas to keep pace with changing demographics across the country," NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Florida Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to impel the National Guard Bureau to examine the present allocations of the Florida National Guard and allow an increase in its force structure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch copies of this memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.