

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Florida National Guard recruitment;  
3           establishing the Florida National Guard Joint  
4           Enlistment Enhancement Program within the Department  
5           of Military Affairs; providing the purpose of the  
6           program; defining the term "recruiting assistant";  
7           providing eligibility requirements for participation  
8           in the program; requiring the Adjutant General to  
9           provide compensation to recruiting assistants under  
10          certain circumstances; requiring the department and  
11          the Florida National Guard to adopt rules; providing  
12          an effective date.

13  
14          WHEREAS, the number of soldiers and airmen allocated to  
15          each state's National Guard, known as its "force structure," is  
16          determined by the United States National Guard Bureau in  
17          Washington, D.C., and

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

24          WHEREAS, the Florida National Guard continues to meet its  
25          mission goals; however, the shortage of these invaluable citizen

HB 723

2023

26 soldiers, combined with the state's growing population and  
27 increased need for National Guard activation and response, has  
28 resulted in the repeated deployment of the same soldiers, which  
29 ultimately leads to their excessive fatigue and negatively  
30 impacts recruitment, retention, and readiness, NOW, THEREFORE,

31

32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33

34 Section 1. Florida National Guard Joint Enlistment  
35 Enhancement Program.—

36 (1) The Florida National Guard Joint Enlistment  
37 Enhancement Program (JEEP) is established within the Department  
38 of Military Affairs. The purpose of the program is to motivate  
39 soldiers, airmen, and retirees of the Florida National Guard to  
40 bolster recruitment efforts and increase the force structure of  
41 the Florida National Guard.

42 (2) As used in this act, the term "recruiting assistant"  
43 means a member of the Florida National Guard or a retiree of the  
44 Florida National Guard who assists in the recruitment of a new  
45 member and who provides motivation, encouragement, and moral  
46 support until the enlistment of such new member. Except for a  
47 recruiting and retention non-commissioned officer, a current  
48 member in pay grade E-1 to E-9 or O-1 to O-3 or a retiree in any  
49 pay grade is eligible for participation in the JEEP as a  
50 recruiting assistant.

HB 723

2023

51        (3) The Adjutant General shall provide compensation to  
52 recruiting assistants participating in the JEEP. A recruiting  
53 assistant shall receive \$250 for each new member referred to the  
54 Florida National Guard and \$250 upon the enlistment of such  
55 referred member.

56        (4) The Department of Military Affairs, in cooperation  
57 with the Florida National Guard, shall adopt rules to administer  
58 the program.

59        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.