

By Senator Wright

8-00491-24

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to impel the United States National Guard Bureau to examine the resource 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 United States 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 Guardsman 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 in addition to 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 deployment of the same soldiers, which ultimately leads to excessive stress and fatigue and negatively impacts recruitment, retention, and readiness, and

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30 WHEREAS, the United States National Guard Bureau's report,
31 "Impact of U.S. Population Trends on National Guard Force
32 Structure," released to Congress in April of 2021, acknowledges
33 the aforementioned concerns within Florida and other regions,
34 stating, "...the National Guard may need to evaluate re-
35 allocating mission sets to other geographic areas to keep pace
36 with changing demographics across the country," NOW, THEREFORE,
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38 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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40 That the Florida Legislature respectfully urges the United
41 States Congress to impel the United States National Guard Bureau
42 to examine the resource allocations of the Florida National
43 Guard and allow an increase in its force structure.

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