

By Senator Wright

8-00105-25

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

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