

SCR 23 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Thatcher

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 05/20/21
Action: Do adopt.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Burdick, Girod, Manning Jr, Wagner
Nays: 1 - Thatcher
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes and honors service members of Oregon National Guard.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Participation in state, national, and international missions and the number of service members deployed
- Participation in distribution of personal protective equipment, vaccines, and other tasks that do not get enough recognition
- The Oregon National Guard lives by its motto of "Always Ready, Always There!"

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon National Guard (ORNG) is comprised of men and women of all ages with diverse skills and experience focused on service to both Oregon and the country. In 2020 and 2021, the Oregon Military Department and the ORNG deployed over 1,900 service members to assist with the public safety and the well-being of Oregonians in response to the 2020 winter flooding in eastern Oregon, the COVID-19 pandemic, the catastrophic 2020 Labor Day wildfires, and the 2021 winter ice storm in western Oregon. During this time, the ORNG also deployed over 2,000 citizen airmen and soldiers outside of Oregon on missions supporting national interests and security. Additionally, the ORNG has assisted in traffic control management, staffed county emergency operations centers, supported local law enforcement and the Oregon State Police during fatality searches, provided security assistance to law enforcement agencies, provided call center assistance to the Employment Department and to the 2-1-1 information system, and participated in search and rescue missions throughout the Cascade Mountains.

During the global pandemic, the ORNG distributed personal protective equipment, supported vaccination sites, and assembled the Oregon Medical Station. It also provided tens of thousands of vaccinations through the extensive use of publicly owned facilities and by working with the private sector.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 23 recognizes and honors the Oregon National Guard service members, who can always be counted on to help Oregonians, and who live by the motto: "Always Ready, Always There!"