

SB 807 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Action Date: 02/18/25

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Manning Jr, Meek, Smith DB, Thatcher, Woods

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows the Adjutant General to pay a bonus to members of the Oregon National Guard who reenlist or extend their period of service for at least three years and agree to any other conditions required by the Adjutant General. The bonus must be repaid if the member fails to complete the agreed-upon conditions or period of service; exceptions may be granted in specified circumstances.

Detailed Summary

Allows the Adjutant General to pay a bonus to members of the Oregon National Guard who

- reenlist or extend their period of service for at least three years and
- enter a written agreement with the Adjutant General including the bonus amount, payment schedule, period of service, type or condition of service, and any other conditions required by the Adjutant General.

Allows active service to count toward the period of service. Requires repayment of bonus if member fails to complete the period of service or meet conditions in the written agreement.

Allows Adjutant General to waive repayment if

- repayment would go against personnel policy, administrative efficiency, or equity and good conscience.

Requires Adjutant General to waive repayment if

- member is discharged or released due to being the only surviving child in a family in which a parent or sibling served in the armed forces and was killed; died from wounds, accident or disease; is captured or missing in action; is permanently 100 percent disabled or requires continuous hospitalization; and these situations were not from intentional misconduct, willful neglect, or during a period of unauthorized absence; or
- member dies or is discharged or released with a combat-related disability not resulting from member misconduct.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Applicability of military occupational specialty to proposed bonus
- Retention rates in Oregon Army National Guard versus Air Force National Guard
- Incentivizing people to join and remain in the National Guard

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The National Guard consists of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard, each of which are capable of performing both state and federal functions. Members can be called upon to respond to state-level incidents and

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natural disasters, and members can also be deployed to support missions of or augment forces of the United States Armed Forces. Both the National Guard and branches of the military offer reenlistment bonuses to service members agreeing to extend their period of service, with varying requirements and bonuses. Activities of the Oregon National Guard are coordinated between the State Governor and Adjutant General.

Senate Bill 807 allows the Adjutant General to pay a bonus to Oregon National Guard members who reenlist or extend their service period by at least three years, with members repaying the bonus amount in specified circumstances if they do not meet the agreed upon conditions of their service reenlistment or extension.