

SENATE BILL REPORT

SJM 8033

As of January 22, 2002

Brief Description: Opposing federalization of the National Guard.

Sponsors: Senators Oke, Rasmussen, Roach, Horn, Rossi, Snyder, Winsley, Regala, Haugen, Benton, Sheahan, Hewitt, Morton, McCaslin and West.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State & Local Government: 1/24/02.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Staff: Diane Smith (786-7410)

Background: Because of the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001, increased security at the Canadian-U.S. border has seriously weakened the American and Canadian economies, especially in northern tier states such as Washington. In November 2001, the northern tier governors offered with National Guard forces to assist lead federal agencies at the border in the service of the United States but under continued state command and control (Title 32). Due to inaction to this offer at the federal level, there is still no relief to the congestion caused by inadequate federal staffing of border security.

The Department of Defense has suggested that federalizing the National Guard (Title 10) or stationing active duty military personnel at the border is a possible solution to the border problem. The Washington State Legislature opposes this option. This would be an unprecedented unilateral action by the United States, degrade the combat-readiness of units from which Guardsmen would be mobilized, interfere with effective state force management and prevent personal accommodations for Guardsmen and their civilian employers.

Summary of Bill: The Washington State Legislature asks President Bush and Congress to provide prompt relief at the U.S.-Canadian border by using Washington National Guardsmen under state command and control (Title 32) to augment the lead federal agencies now providing border security.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.