

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2700

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to military department claims and accounts.

Brief Description: Creating the military department active state service account.

Sponsors: By Representatives O'Brien, Morrell, VanDeWege, Green, Hurst, Pearson, Sullivan, Williams, Hankins and Kelley; by request of Military Department.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Appropriations: 2/5/08 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/14/08, 94-0.

Passed Senate: 3/7/08, 49-0.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Creating the Military Department Active State Service Account.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 33 members: Representatives Sommers, Chair; Dunshee, Vice Chair; Alexander, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Haler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Ericks, Fromhold, Grant, Green, Haigh, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Kretz, Linville, McDonald, McIntire, Morrell, Pettigrew, Priest, Ross, Schmick, Schual-Berke, Seaquist, Sullivan and Walsh.

Staff: Wendy Polzin (786-7137).

Background:

The Washington Military Code governs the organization, administration, and duties of the Military Department and the state militia. The militia consists of both the National Guard and

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the State Guard. The National Guard is organized under the United States National Defense Act and serves both the Governor under state law and the President under federal law.

Summary of Bill:

The Military Department Active State Service Account (Account) is created in the State Treasury. Funds may be deposited in the Account through state legislative appropriations, federal appropriations, or any other lawful source. Money in the Account may only be spent after it is appropriated. There is no appropriation included in the bill.

Expenditures from the Account may be used to fund anticipated planning, training, exercises and other administrative duties not of an emergency nature.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This Account will be used for anticipated planning and administrative duties not covered by other funds. There is a void in state training that this Account would fill. Money in the Account would be used for non-emergency planning.

The Account would add value by preparing for events. Federal alert orders make it difficult to know what units/personnel will be available when, and the state can't afford a six- to seven-day delay to train during an emergency situation. Funds could be used for mass evacuation planning and providing expertise on logistics. Because there is no imminent danger, federal funds cannot be used for planning situations. Many Guardsmen are still in the state and have not been called for federal duty, and are available for the state training.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative O'Brien, prime sponsor; and Timothy Lowenberg, Washington Military Department.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.