

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1277

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to transient lodging for military service members in armories.

Brief Description: Concerning transient lodging for military service members in armories.

Sponsors: Representatives Klippert, Appleton, MacEwen, Muri, Orwall, Goodman, Shea, Haler, Moscoso, Young, Scott, Zeiger and McCaslin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs: 1/26/15 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/9/15, 96-0.

Passed Senate: 4/9/15, 45-0.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows transient lodging for military personnel in state armories in nonemergency situations.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Appleton, Chair; Robinson, Vice Chair; Johnson, Ranking Minority Member; Zeiger, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Hawkins, Sawyer and Van De Wege.

Staff: Sean Flynn (786-7124).

Background:

The Military Department maintains and operates state armories. Armories generally are reserved for military purposes, however some limited non-military uses are permitted. For example, veterans organizations have access to state armories and may hold social and

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athletic events at an armory. Civilian rifle clubs affiliated with the National Rifle Association of America, also may use small arms rifle ranges in an armory.

The adjutant general may make armories available for public and private rentals and may permit transient lodging, upon recommendation by the head of a local jurisdiction. The adjutant general also may permit transient lodging for service personnel in armories, but only during an emergency.

Summary of Bill:

The adjutant general is permitted to allow transient lodging for military personnel in nonemergency situations.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) National Guard members typically drill one weekend a month at a state armory, which often includes traveling long distances to an armory training site. These members often have to pay for overnight lodging because they are not permitted to stay at the armory. The cost of lodging sometimes can equal up to the entire amount of training pay for members. This bill would help save money for young members who do not receive much compensation.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Tim Tyvan, Washington Military Department; John Tuohy, Washington Air National Guard; and Oscar Hilman, Veterans Legislative Coalition.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.