

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5164

As Passed Senate, January 30, 2015

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: Senators Hobbs, Bailey, Rolfes, Roach, Hatfield, O'Ban, McCoy, Litzow, Conway and Chase.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services, Mental Health & Housing: 1/20/15, 1/22/15 [DP].
Passed Senate: 1/30/15, 46-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MENTAL HEALTH & HOUSING

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators O'Ban, Chair; Miloscia, Vice Chair; Darneille, Ranking Minority Member; Hargrove and Padden.

Staff: Alison Mendiola (786-7444)

Background: There are an estimated 8200 Washington Air and Army National Guard soldiers and airmen. National guardsmen traditionally serve in a part-time status where they participate in drill one weekend per month and participate in annual training for two weeks of the year. The cost of participating in drill, other than their salary, is the responsibility of the guardsman.

The Military Department manages readiness centers, also known as armories, throughout the state. The National Guard utilizes armories when conducting training. Currently armory use is limited to casual civic purposes, amateur and professional sports, and theatrical events. However during an emergency, the Adjutant General may allow temporary lodging of service personnel in armories.

Summary of Bill: The Adjutant General may allow temporary lodging of service personnel in armories.

Appropriation: None.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is an antiquated law which does not allow guardsman to stay in an armory absent a declaration of a state of emergency. Guardsman may travel long distances for drill and paying for lodging can be a financial hardship, especially for lower-ranked guardsman. This bill would remedy this problem and allow guardsman to stay in an armory when possible.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Hobbs, prime sponsor; Brigadier General John Tuohy, Chief Master Sergeant Timothy Tyvan, WA National Guard.