

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5803

C 24 L 24

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning the recruitment and retention of Washington national guard members.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Conway, Boehnke, Dozier, Frame, Holy, Hunt, Kuderer, Liias, Lovelett, Lovick, MacEwen, Mullet, Nobles, Padden, Stanford, Wagoner, Warnick and Wellman; by request of Military Department).

Senate Committee on State Government & Elections

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

House Committee on Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans

House Committee on Appropriations

Background: The Washington National Guard was first organized in 1855 and is made up of the Washington Army National Guard and the Washington Air National Guard. Headquartered at Camp Murray, Washington, the Washington National Guard is made up of approximately 8400 citizen soldiers and airmen. The Washington National Guard is overseen by the Washington Military Department (WMD), and at the call of the Governor, will mobilize and deploy during times of state emergency to augment local jurisdictions and responders in their duties. The Washington National Guard is also subject to the call of the U.S. President to serve as part of the U.S. military.

Summary: Washington National Guard Member Referral Incentive Program. The Washington National Guard member referral incentive program is established to incentivize peer-to-peer recruiting. The program allows for a referral bonus of no more than \$500 to be provided to Washington National Guard members who make a successful referral. To make a referral, members must use a form provided by the Washington National Guard, which includes the person's name, contact information, and any other information required by WMD.

WMD must keep a record of all referral forms submitted. Upon the completed accession of

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a referred person, and to the extent sufficient funds are available, WMD will distribute a referral bonus to the member who provided the successful referral. The following members of the Washington National Guard are not eligible for the referral incentive program:

- members serving in command or senior enlisted advisor positions; or
- members assigned recruiting as a primary or additional duty.

The adjutant general may determine additional eligibility criteria for the bonus, and must specify all criteria in policy as well as publish any changes.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate 48 0

House 96 0

Effective: June 6, 2024