
SENATE BILL 5803

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Conway, Boehnke, Dozier, Frame, Holy, Hunt, Kuderer, Liiias, Lovelett, Lovick, MacEwen, Mullet, Nobles, Padden, Stanford, Wagoner, Warnick, and Wellman; by request of Military Department

Prefiled 12/06/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the recruitment and retention of Washington
2 National Guard members; and adding new sections to chapter 38.24 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 38.24
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) There is created the Washington national guard member
7 referral incentive program. The purpose of the program is to
8 incentivize and maximize peer-to-peer recruiting that results in a
9 completed accession to the Washington national guard by providing a
10 referral bonus to Washington national guard members who make a
11 successful referral. Administration of this program requires that:

12 (a) A Washington national guard member may provide the identity
13 and contact information of a person who the member believes would be
14 an appropriate recruitment prospect using a form provided by the
15 Washington national guard, which includes the person's name, contact
16 information, and any other information required by the state military
17 department.

18 (b) The state military department shall keep a record of all
19 forms submitted under (a) of this subsection. Upon the completed
20 accession of a referred person and to the extent sufficient funds are

1 available, the state military department shall distribute a referral
2 bonus to the member who provided the successful referral.

3 (2) Members of the Washington national guard serving in command
4 or senior enlisted advisor positions, as well as those assigned
5 recruiting as a primary or additional duty, are ineligible for the
6 Washington national guard member referral incentive program.

7 (3) For the purposes of this section:

8 (a) "Completed accession" means the referred person signs the
9 referred person's name to an enlistment contract for entry or reentry
10 after prior service into the Washington national guard;

11 (b) "Referral bonus" means a monetary payment set each calendar
12 year by the adjutant general not to exceed \$500.00;

13 (c) "Successful referral" means providing the identity and
14 contact information in subsection (1)(a) of this section of any
15 person not already a member of the Washington national guard that
16 results in a completed accession to the Washington national guard.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 38.24
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) There is created a national guard reenlistment bonus program.

20 (2) The adjutant general shall establish the program to provide a
21 reenlistment bonus to eligible members of the national guard who
22 extend their term of service in the Washington national guard. The
23 bonus must be in an amount to generally encourage the member's
24 enlistment for a term of not less than two years.

25 (3) Eligibility for the national guard reenlistment bonus program
26 is limited to members of the Washington national guard who are:

27 (a) Serving satisfactorily as determined by the adjutant general;
28 and

29 (b) Not eligible for any federal reenlistment bonus.

30 (4) The adjutant general may, within the limitations of this
31 section and other applicable laws, determine additional eligibility
32 criteria for the bonus, and must specify all of the criteria in
33 policy and publish any changes.

34 (5) The bonus payments must be made on a schedule that is
35 determined and published by the state military department.

1 (6) If a member fails to complete a term of the reenlistment for
2 which the bonus was paid, the state military department may seek to
3 recoup a prorated amount of the bonus.

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