

House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
 urging Congress to impel the United States National
 Guard Bureau to examine the resource allocations of
 the Florida National Guard and allow an increase in
 its force structure.

WHEREAS, the number of soldiers and airmen allocated to
 each state's National Guard, known as its "force structure," is
 determined by the United States National Guard Bureau in
 Washington, D.C., and

WHEREAS, with approximately 21 million residents, Florida
 is the third most populous state in the nation but nevertheless
 has a force structure of just over 12,000 Guardsmen, and its
 ratio of one Guardsman for every 1,833 residents ranks 53rd
 among the 54 states and territories of the United States which
 have a National Guard component, and

WHEREAS, due to the unprecedented events of 2020 and 2021,
 including COVID-19 response in addition to natural disasters and
 overseas deployments, the Florida National Guard has expended
 the same number of workdays within the past 18 months as it has
 expended within the past 20 years, and

WHEREAS, the Florida National Guard continues to meet its
 mission goals; however, the shortage of these invaluable
 "citizen soldiers," combined with the state's growing population

26 | and increased need for National Guard activation and response,
 27 | has resulted in the repeated deployment of the same soldiers,
 28 | which ultimately leads to their excessive fatigue and negatively
 29 | impacts recruitment, retention, and readiness, and

30 | WHEREAS, the United States National Guard Bureau's report,
 31 | "Impact of U.S. Population Trends on National Guard Force
 32 | Structure," released to Congress in April of 2021, acknowledges
 33 | the aforementioned concerns within Florida and other regions,
 34 | stating, "...the National Guard may need to evaluate re-
 35 | allocating mission sets to other geographic areas to keep pace
 36 | with changing demographics across the country," NOW, THEREFORE,

37 |
 38 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

39 |
 40 | That the Florida Legislature respectfully urges the United
 41 | States Congress to impel the United States National Guard Bureau
 42 | to examine the resource allocations of the Florida National
 43 | Guard and allow an increase in its force structure.

44 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
 45 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
 46 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
 47 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
 48 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.