

HB 2593 -- MILITARY AFFAIRS (Hardwick)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Veterans and Armed Forces

This bill extends Federal protections of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) currently in Federal law for Federal servicemembers to members of the Missouri National Guard who are called to active state duty by the Governor or adjutant general for a period of more than 30 consecutive days and any Missouri employees who are members of the National Guard of another state and are called to active state duty by the Governor or adjutant general of that state for a period of more than 30 consecutive days, upon being relieved of such duty.

The bill allows members of the Missouri National Guard or any Missouri employee who is a member of the National Guard of another state who believes his or her rights have been violated to bring suit in any court of competent jurisdiction and appropriate venue. The office of the Attorney General can also bring suit against an employer who violates the provisions of this bill.

This bill modifies the composition of the panel that recommends to the Adjutant General to make grants or provide other financial assistance or services from the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund. Instead of a sergeant major of the Missouri National Guard, the panel must include a senior enlisted leader of the Missouri National Guard. The bill also provides that the Adjutant General, rather than the panel, will have the power to establish criteria for the grants. Furthermore, the grants may be made to members of the Missouri National Guard in addition to families of members and other reserve members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

This bill establishes "The Supporting Missouri Servicemen and Women Act". Currently, members of the Missouri National Guard serving under state active duty orders receive the same pay, longevity, and allowances as members of like grade and branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, provided that such members at least receive the daily paygrade rate of an E5 with maximum longevity and dependents. This bill additionally provides that members of the Missouri National Guard who are on state active duty orders for more than 30 days will receive an allowance for any premiums for TRICARE or other government-sponsored insurance programs for coverage of the member during the period of active duty.

This bill establishes a Missouri National Guard Counterdrug Program Ribbon, which the Adjutant General is authorized to present to any member of the Missouri National Guard who has participated in the Counterdrug Program from January 1, 1989.

The bill also establishes the Missouri National Guard Homeland Response Force Program Ribbon, which the Adjutant General is authorized to present to any member of the Missouri National Guard who has participated in the Homeland Response Force Program from January 1, 2012.

This bill establishes a Missouri National Guard Engineer Explosive Ordnance Clearance Agent Ribbon, which the Adjutant General is authorized to present to any member of the Missouri National Guard who has participated in a engineer explosive ordnance clearance agent course from January 1, 2012.

The bill establishes the "Cybersecurity Mission Act", which provides that the Missouri National Guard may engage in cybersecurity, cyber-attack prevention, cyber-attack response, and cyber-attack support activities for this state and for political subdivisions, governing bodies, public colleges and universities, law enforcement agencies, utility companies, and critical infrastructure facilities of this state. The Adjutant General may activate members on state order to carry out such activities. The "Missouri National Guard Cyber-Security Revolving Fund" is created and will consist of monies appropriated by the General Assembly, monies received as a charge and monies received as reimbursement for expenses incurred by the Missouri National Guard related to rendering aid.

The Missouri Veterans' Commission may use the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund for payment of expenses associated with providing medals, medallions, and certificates in recognition of service in the Armed Forces of the United States for any conflict, war, operation, and similar incident identified in law, rather than during World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War.

This bill establishes a new program called the "Missouri Guaranteed Inclusive Voluntary Exceptional Service Program" or (MO GIVES). It will be ran by the Missouri Department of the National Guard. The Program provides state activeduty orders to Guard members who are living organ donors. The living donation period includes all medically necessary phases including, but not limited to, testing, surgery, and recovery. The active duty

orders will not exceed 45 days unless a medical extension is deemed necessary by the primary surgical team. The member will continue to be paid while he or she is on the active duty order.

To qualify for the Program, a member must:

- (1) Be a Missouri National Guard member in good standing;
- (2) Be in traditional drilling (MDay) status;
- (3) Be actively participating in a living organ donation process; and
- (4) Not be on Federal active duty orders under Title 10 or Title 32.

Active Guard Reserve (AGR) personnel, Federal technicians under Title 5 or Title 32 and any Federal employee whose participation would violate Federal dual compensation laws do not qualify for the program.

The bill creates the "MO GIVES Fund" for the administration of the MO Gives Program.

This bill creates the following medallions, medals, and certificates for eligible veterans:

- (1) Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn;
- (2) Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, and Operation Allies Refuge Program; and
- (3) Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

The bill provides that spouses or eldest living survivors of a deceased veteran, who was entitled to but died prior to applying, may apply on behalf of the deceased veteran.

The Missouri Veterans' Commission will design the form for the medallions, medals, and certificates. The Adjutant General will determine as expeditiously as possible those persons who are entitled to medallions, medals, and certificates and will notify the General Assembly when the supply totals less than 100.

Currently, the tuition and fee waiver for undergraduate courses at Missouri higher education institutions to Missouri National

Guard members apply after GI Bill educational entitlements. This bill repeals this provision.

This bill repeals the Military Council, the duties of which included acting in an advisory capacity on matters provided by the Governor and the Adjutant General and making recommendations of appropriations for the needs of the militia and expending such appropriations.

This bill is similar to SB 1003 (2026).