

HCS HBs 2771 & 1993 -- RIGHTS OF MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

SPONSOR: Boykin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Veterans and Armed Forces by a vote of 21 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 2771 & 1993.

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.

This 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 is similar to HCS HBs 954 & 1447 (2025).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this strengthens the rights of members of the National Guard while they are asked to deploy by the Governor or adjutant general. This shields active duty members from financial stress so they can focus on the tasks they have been asked to do. This puts Missouri in line with Federal protections for active members of the military.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Boykin; Major General (Ret) Will Blaylock, Missouri National Guard Association; Arnie Dienoff; and Jewell Patek, Missouri National Guard Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the deployment of the National Guard is becoming more frequent in recent years.

Testifying in person on the bill was Nick Humphrey, Missouri National Guard.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.