

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 251 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, ROTHMAN, BARTOLOTTA, GEBHARD, DUSH, PITTMAN, PHILLIPS-HILL, BROOKS, PENNYCUICK, K. WARD, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, ARGALL, LAUGHLIN, COLEMAN, J. WARD, VOGEL, CULVER, HUTCHINSON AND REGAN, MARCH 15, 2024

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 15, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to offer the services of the Pennsylvania
2 National Guard to the State of Texas in support of Operation
3 Lone Star.

4 WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 4, of the Constitution of the
5 United States requires the Federal Government to protect the
6 states against invasion; and

7 WHEREAS, Since January 2021, more than 7 million illegal
8 immigrants have crossed the southern border of the United
9 States, the majority of which have entered through Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, The Federal Government has failed to adequately
11 secure the border and has encouraged the increase in illegal
12 immigration by prohibiting Texas from defending its border; and

13 WHEREAS, On May 16, 2023, Texas Governor Greg Abbott sent
14 letters to all governors in the United States requesting support
15 for Operation Lone Star; and

16 WHEREAS, Currently, 14 states, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa,
17 Idaho, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina,

1 South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming,
2 have deployed their national guard to secure the border; and

3 WHEREAS, Operation Lone Star personnel work to detect and
4 repel illegal crossings, arrest human smugglers and cartel gang
5 members and stop the flow of deadly drugs like fentanyl; and

6 WHEREAS, Operation Lone Star has led to more than 500,000
7 illegal immigrant apprehensions, more than 40,000 criminal
8 arrests and the seizure of more than 468 million lethal doses of
9 fentanyl, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a compelling interest to help
12 secure the southern border as fentanyl has killed tens of
13 thousands of residents throughout this Commonwealth, school
14 districts are increasingly burdened, available affordable
15 housing is constricted and strained social benefits are diverted
16 from legal citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, Illegal immigration cost Pennsylvania taxpayers more
18 than \$1.6 billion in 2023, equating to a burden of \$318 per
19 Pennsylvania household annually, according to the Federation for
20 American Immigration Reform; and

21 WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin founded what is now our
22 Pennsylvania National Guard to provide a common defense of
23 Pennsylvania in times of crisis; and

24 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has the third-largest National Guard in
25 the country with more than 18,000 personnel; and

26 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the Pennsylvania National
27 Guard has been deployed nationwide to assist other states with
28 natural disasters, including hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, and
29 terror attacks such as 9/11; and

30 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard also has experience

1 assisting with surges of illegal immigration at the southwestern
2 border through its participation in Operation Jump Start; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2007, members of the 201st Red Horse Squadron of
4 the Pennsylvania National Guard were deployed to serve in
5 Operation Jump Start, where they helped to secure the southwest
6 border by constructing valuable infrastructure to keep our
7 border and citizens secure from human traffickers and drug
8 smugglers; and

9 WHEREAS, The lawlessness on the United States' southern
10 border and its impacts upon the people of Pennsylvania
11 constitutes a crisis that calls for a significant response from
12 this Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania National Guard has the experience
14 and resources necessary to assist Texas in securing its border
15 and reducing the strain that illegal immigration is having on
16 the nation; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
18 urge the Governor to offer the services of the Pennsylvania
19 National Guard to the State of Texas in support of Operation
20 Lone Star; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
22 the following:

23 (1) The Governor.

24 (2) The Governor of the State of Texas.