
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 397 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, ROBBINS, STACK, SCARNATI, KITCHEN,
ERICKSON, VULAKOVICH, GREENLEAF, SMITH, VANCE, YUDICHAK,
ALLOWAY, RAFFERTY, COSTA, SOLOBAY AND FOLMER, MAY 29, 2014

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
MAY 29, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States and the Congress to
2 immediately consider and pass H.R. 3930, which establishes
3 the National Commission on the Structure of the Army.

4 WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of the United
5 States reads in part, "We the People of the United
6 States...to...provide for the common defence...and secure the
7 blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity..."; and

8 WHEREAS, Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the
9 United States reads in part, "The Congress shall have power...to
10 raise and support armies...to provide and maintain a navy...";
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Peace and the search for it may be an utmost desired
13 end, but the achievement of that end may be better obtained if
14 we maintain our strength while advancing the goal of peace; and

15 WHEREAS, It is the primary responsibility of government to
16 ensure the public safety and public health of its citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, Global insecurity continues while the threat to

1 freedom and liberty, both domestically and around the world
2 remains; and

3 WHEREAS, The Pentagon's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal for
4 the United States Army outlines a plan to make budget cuts to
5 both active duty Army and the Army National Guard personnel,
6 which will effectively reduce the National Guard's end strength;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Under the Pentagon's fiscal year 2015 budget
9 proposal, the National Guard's end strength will be reduced to
10 315,000 soldiers, a level that has not been seen since the 1950s
11 and 35,000 fewer soldiers than pre-9/11 levels; and

12 WHEREAS, Under the Pentagon's fiscal year 2015 budget
13 proposal, the National Guard stands to lose all of its attack
14 and reconnaissance capabilities, jeopardizing the National
15 Guard's mission readiness and support component to the active
16 forces in times of both war and domestic emergency; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Guard has a unique dual mission, which
18 includes both Federal and state responsibilities; and

19 WHEREAS, The President of the United States may activate the
20 National Guard to participate in Federal missions, such as
21 overseas contingency operations, or the Governor may activate
22 the National Guard to respond to disasters, emergencies and
23 recovery efforts; and

24 WHEREAS, The National Guard is ready, accessible and trains
25 to the same standards as the Army, making it very versatile; and

26 WHEREAS, H.R. 3930, which establishes the National Commission
27 on the Structure of the Army, will ensure that the regular and
28 reserve components of the Army have the capacity needed to
29 support homeland security and to participate in disaster
30 response missions in the United States when needed; and

1 WHEREAS, H.R. 3930 will prohibit the Army from using fiscal
2 year 2015 funds to divest, retire or transfer, or prepare to
3 divest, retire or transfer, any aircraft of the Army assigned to
4 units of the Army National Guard; and

5 WHEREAS, H.R. 3930 will further prohibit the Army from using
6 fiscal year 2015 funds to reduce personnel below the authorized
7 end strength levels of 350,000 for the Army National Guard; and

8 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania maintains the
9 oldest division in the United States Army which is the 28th
10 Infantry Division, which proudly continues to serve this great
11 country; and

12 WHEREAS, The geographical location of Pennsylvania in
13 relation to the entire northeast corridor places the
14 Pennsylvania National Guard in a strategically accessible
15 position that can effectively respond at the Federal and state
16 level when needed for domestic emergencies or armed conflicts;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The United States has seen that war or aggression
19 comes not when forces of freedom are strong, but when they are
20 weak and tempting the forces of terror and tyranny; and

21 WHEREAS, Since World War II, the United States has spent
22 large amounts of money and much of our time rightly protecting
23 and defending freedom all over the world and the United States
24 should never abdicate the responsibilities of leadership to any
25 other country whether ally or foe; and

26 WHEREAS, The cost of liberty must be eternal vigilance; and

27 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania owes much to all
28 who serve in uniform; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
30 urge the Pentagon to explore alternatives to increase the cost-

1 effectiveness of maintaining the Army National Guard in ways
2 that do not adversely impact its mission readiness; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 urge the President of the United States and the Congress to
6 immediately consider and pass H.R. 3930, which creates the
7 National Commission on the Structure of the Army and prohibits
8 the Army from using fiscal year 2015 funds to change the
9 structure and effectiveness of the Army National Guard; and be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 urge the Army to examine other options to increase the cost-
13 effectiveness of maintaining the Army National Guard in ways
14 that do not jeopardize our homeland security and our mission
15 readiness capabilities; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
17 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
18 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
19 Pennsylvania.