

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003  
4

Call Item ##

SR 16

5 By: Senator Laverty  
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## 8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 URGING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
10 INTRODUCE AND PASS LEGISLATION TO REVISE THE AGE  
11 AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
12 NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES TO BE ELIGIBLE TO  
13 RECEIVE RETIREMENT PAY; AND TO INCREASE THE  
14 AMOUNT OF NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE RETIREMENT  
15 PAY TO MAKE IT ON PAR WITH ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF  
16 OUR ARMED FORCES.

### 17 **Subtitle**

18 TO REVISE THE AGE AND SERVICE  
19 REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL  
20 GUARD AND RESERVES TO BE ELIGIBLE TO  
21 RECEIVE RETIREMENT PAY AND TO INCREASE  
22 THE AMOUNT OF RESERVE RETIREMENT PAY.  
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26 WHEREAS, the volunteer citizen-soldiers of the National Guard and the  
27 Reserves have been vital to the defense of the Nation for over 365 years; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the National Guard and Reserve military forces have responded  
30 to every major national security threat in the history of the United States,  
31 from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, through World War I, World War  
32 II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and most  
33 recently Operation Iraqi Freedom, not to mention numerous peace keeping,  
34 security, and reconstruction efforts all over the world; and  
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36 WHEREAS, the 39<sup>th</sup> Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade of the Arkansas



1 National Guard, nearly 3,100 soldiers, has been mobilized for up to eighteen  
2 (18) months to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in the Iraqi theatre as part of  
3 the Army's force rotation plan; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the National Guard and Selected Reserve have over 800,000  
6 dedicated members; and  
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8 WHEREAS, the National Guard and Reserves account for only a fraction of  
9 the defense budget, but allow the Nation to almost double the size of the  
10 Armed Forces, making them an essential part of a total force concept and they  
11 are vital to the national security of the United States; and  
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13 WHEREAS, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the  
14 operational commitments of the United States Armed Forces, including the  
15 National Guard and Reserves, have increased significantly; and  
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17 WHEREAS, over 340,000 National Guard and Reserve members have been  
18 called to active duty at (1) one time or another since September 11, 2001;  
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20 WHEREAS, responding to the needs of their country has required  
21 significant sacrifices on the part of the members of the National Guard and  
22 Reserves, as well as their families and their employers; and  
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24 WHEREAS, retirement pay for members of the National Guard and Reserves  
25 completing twenty (20) "good" years of service is not paid until age sixty  
26 (60), regardless of the number of years of service, or the age at which the  
27 service is completed; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the amount of retirement pay for members of the National Guard  
30 and Reserves completing twenty (20) "good" years of service is determined not  
31 only by the member's rank and years of service, but by the number of points  
32 accumulated by the member during the member's years of service, which is not  
33 on par with active duty members of the armed services,  
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35 NOW THEREFORE,

36 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE

1 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

2  
3 THAT the Arkansas Congressional Delegation is urged to introduce and  
4 pass legislation to revise the age and service requirements for members of  
5 the National Guard and Reserves to be eligible to receive retired pay, and to  
6 increase the amount of National Guard and Reserve retirement pay to make it  
7 on par with active duty members of our Armed Forces; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the adoption of this resolution the  
10 Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy to each member of Arkansas'  
11 Congressional Delegation and the presiding officer of the United States House  
12 of Representatives and the United States Senate.