

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: SB731

Bill Subtitle: TO MODIFY THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF TRUST FUND AND THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF CHECK-OFF PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE WITH EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Basic Change : Sponsor: Sen. Pierce

SB731 will modify the Military Family Relief Trust Fund and the Military Family Relief Check-Off Program. The moneys collected from the check-off program will be deposited into the State Treasury and credited to the trust fund. The fund will be used exclusively to assist member and families of member of the Arkansas National Guard and reserve components of the armed forces. Previously, the fund was only used to assist families of members who serve on active duty for a minimum of 30 days as a result of September 11, 2001. The financial assistance will be issued in the form of grants. The bill is effective upon enactment.

Revenue Impact :

None

Taxpayer Impact :

All families of members of the Arkansas National Guard and reserve components of the armed forces will be eligible for assistance from the Military Family Relief Trust Fund.

Resources Required :

None. Program has existed since 2005.

Time Required :

Adequate time is provided

Procedural Changes :

None

Other Comments :

The income tax check-off program is not amended, but eligible recipients of grants from the fund are clarified by the bill.

Legal Analysis :

SB731 makes minor technical changes to the Military Family Relief Trust and the Military Family Relief Check-Off Program. Section 2 adds "members" in addition to "families" as targets of assistance of the Military Family Relief Trust Fund and Military Family Relief Check-Off Program. Also, the bill removes the limitation on those who may receive assistance for those persons that are did not serve a minimum of thirty days of active duty following the September 11, 2001 attacks.