

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: HB1522

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE LAW TO EXTEND STATE BENEFITS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD ON STATE ACTIVE DUTY.

Basic Change :

Sponsors: Reps. House and Burch; Sens. Garner and Wallace

HB1522 amends Arkansas law to extend state benefits to the members of the Arkansas National Guard on state active duty. The amendment adds "state active duty in the Arkansas National Guard" to the following benefits for members on active duty in the United States Armed Forces:

- Concerning payments of interest or principal on student loans for medical school, graduate nursing students, and members under the Nursing Student Loan Program.
- Tuition waiver for dependents of a death as result of injuries received while on state active duty.
- Voter qualifications, application for election ballots and absentee voting.
- Concerning extensions for renewing state licenses and paying taxes and fees.

Revenue Impact :

None.

Taxpayer Impact :

Members of the Arkansas National Guard or reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who is a resident of the state and who is ordered to active duty or state active duty to a duty outside of Arkansas will be allowed at least a 90 day extension for renewing license, permits, registration, credentials or certificates and paying state taxes, fees, assessments or tuition.

Resources Required :

None.

Time Required :

Adequate time is provided for implementation

Procedural Changes :

Motor Vehicle Procedures Manual would be updated. The Office of Driver Services would update procedures to be shared with State Revenue Office employees to provide training on this new procedure.

Other Comments :

None.

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Legal Analysis :

Currently, there are many state benefits that are available for members of the United States Armed Forces while they serve on active duty, including debt protection on loans, tuition waivers, absentee voting, extensions for renewals of licenses, and waivers of renewal fees. HB1522 amends numerous provisions of the Arkansas Code to extend those existing state benefits to members of the Arkansas National Guard on state active duty. HB1522 expands the qualification to include those on state active duty concerning extensions for paying state taxes provided in § 12-62-414(a). Also, HB1522 expands the definition of "military member" in § 27-16-902 to include a member on state active duty regarding those who qualify for extensions of the expiration date of a military member driver's license.