

First Regular Session  
Sixty-seventh General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. M09-1005.01 Amanda King

SJM09-010

---

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Spence,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Acree,

---

Senate Committees

House Committees

---

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 09-010

101 MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY NEEDS WHEN  
102 DEPLOYING NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS.

1 WHEREAS, Members of the National Guard serve both the  
2 country and their state during times of need; and

3 WHEREAS, National Guard troops may be called into active duty  
4 either by the governor of their state for state active duty or to assist  
5 another state during an emergency disaster though the Emergency  
6 Management Assistance Compact or by the President of the United States  
7 for federal active duty; and

8 WHEREAS, Between September 11, 2001, and March 31, 2008,  
9 more than two hundred fifty thousand members of the National Guard  
10 were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan; and

11 WHEREAS, At least thirty-five states have deployed more  
12 National Guard troops to fight in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan  
13 than they have deployed to any other war since World War II; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
Final Reading  
April 23, 2009

1           WHEREAS, In April 2008, the Government Accountability Office  
2 reported that federal authorities lack the formalized guidance and  
3 procedures necessary to ensure that, in light of the deployment of a  
4 significant percentage of National Guard members, interagency  
5 coordination efforts or agreements can be fully relied upon when  
6 responding to major disasters in the United States; and

7           WHEREAS, Communities lose public safety personnel when  
8 National Guard deployments occur because many of the same individuals  
9 who serve as law enforcement and fire safety personnel are also National  
10 Guard members; and

11           WHEREAS, Although deploying National Guard troops may be  
12 an effective method of ensuring the safety and well-being of United  
13 States citizens, if the troops are so deployed, communities across the  
14 nation will feel further strain on their public safety personnel; and

15           WHEREAS, In addition to creating safety concerns, the reduction  
16 of public safety personnel also has a financial impact on communities,  
17 because the public safety personnel who are left in the communities after  
18 a deployment of National Guard members often are required to work  
19 overtime to cover the shortages that occur due to the deployment of their  
20 colleagues; and

21           WHEREAS, The impact of the deployment of National Guard  
22 members is even more deeply felt in small towns where the deployment  
23 of a few people could drastically reduce the number of public safety  
24 personnel in the community; now, therefore,

25           *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly*  
26 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

27           (1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, ask  
28 Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., before calling the National Guard into duty, to  
29 consider the impact that placing National Guard members on active duty  
30 would have on communities throughout Colorado, especially smaller  
31 communities, that rely on these individuals to also provide fire and police  
32 protection;

33           (2) That we encourage public safety organizations throughout  
34 Colorado to work with the Governor's Office and the Colorado  
35 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in addressing specific issues  
36 related to the deployment of National Guard members who also serve as  
37 public safety personnel;

38           (3) That we ask President Barack Obama, before deploying  
39 National Guard members, to consider the impact that the deployment of  
40 National Guard members would have on communities throughout the  
41 country, especially smaller communities, that rely on these individuals to  
42 also provide fire and police protection;

43           (4) That we encourage the federal government to work with state  
44 Adjutant Generals and other public safety personnel to ensure that  
45 communities throughout the country have adequate coverage by local

1 National Guard troops, as well as public safety personnel, in the event of  
2 a natural or man-made disaster before deploying additional National  
3 Guard troops from the area;

4 (5) That we ask Congress to provide a procedure to allow state  
5 governors and the President of the United States the discretion to exempt  
6 from deployment National Guard members when they also serve their  
7 communities in the public safety sector and when such a deployment  
8 could put public safety at risk; and

9 (6) That we ask Congress to provide adequate funding to  
10 communities that lose public safety personnel due to National Guard  
11 deployments to ensure that the normal duties of the deployed National  
12 Guard members who serve their communities as public safety  
13 professionals are able to be accomplished by those public safety  
14 professionals who remain in the community.

15 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent  
16 to the President of the United States, the President of the United States  
17 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
18 members of Colorado's congressional delegation, and the Governor of  
19 Colorado.