

Governor's Military Council

Senate Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Testimony on HB 2155
(Relating to: reemployment of persons call to active duty)
March 17, 2015

Chairman Ostmeyer and members of the Committee, I'm John Armbrust, Executive Director of the Governor's Military Council. Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on HB 2154.

The Kansas Legislature has for many years been very supportive of military activities and veterans in Kansas. This extraordinary support by the Legislature has been taken in part to acknowledge the fiscal and economic impact of military activities in the state – over \$7B per year into the Gross State Product; nearly 160,000 Kansans employed drawing wages and salaries of over \$5B; and payment of property and income taxes of \$350M-\$400M per year. All these fiscal and economic impacts figures include the impact made by Kansans in the National Guard and Reserves that are called to state active duty.

Given today's environment of constant world-wide conflict and the resulting potential for many Kansans to be called to state active duty, it is important that the men and women be assured their family income will continue upon their return to the Kansas workforce.

If, as I believe is the case, HB 2155 only addresses Kansans called to state active duty and the Kansas National Guard agrees with the language in the bill, I recommend the Committee favorably consider HB 2155.

Chairman Ostmeyer, thank you for the opportunity to provide you and your Committee my thoughts concerning HB 2155.

Respectfully,

John Armbrust
Executive Director
Governor's Military Council