

Senate Government Operations Committee 3/30 Written Testimony

To: Senate Government Operations

Subject: Written Testimony regarding H.149; Modernization of Statutes related to the Vermont National Guard

General overarching purpose is to recognize the need to update the various statutes that date as far back as the late 1800's. Also, addresses grammar (plain language) and capitalization. Also changes commander-in-chief to Governor. Clarifies rolls that have transitioned from the Governor to the Adjutant General based on policy and federal laws/regulations.

Page 3, line 3; strikes the term Quartermaster General. The intended function of the Quartermaster General has been fully replaced by the implementation of the United States Property & Fiscal Officer (USP&FO), which was put in place by DoD and is a Title 10 Active-Duty officer that is the liaison between the state and DoD.

Page 3, line 16-18; updates the titles for the senior enlisted ranks.

Page 4, line 13; the Adjutant General is the approval authority for officer appointments to the Vermont National Guard.

Page 11, line 10-12; This provision is no longer required because of the role of the USP&FO.

Page 15, lines 5-10; are recommended to be repealed because this is not the method to recruit members into the VTNG today as compared to the militia through the early 1900's.

Page 16, line 5; specifically refers to a call to state active duty.

Page 19, lines 12-18; this was up this WW I and no longer applies. The DoD pays for all associated cost.

Page 20, lines 2-5; this was up this WW I and no longer applies. The DoD pays for all associated cost.

Page 22, lines 9-14; This provision is no longer required because of the role of the USP&FO.

Page 23, lines 15-17; obsolete due to DoD policy changes.

Page 24, lines 18-21 & Page 25, lines 1-3 are deleted to account for DoD policy/regulation changes.

Page 25, lines 8-12; superseded by DoD policy/regulation changes.

Additional Observations:

Bill H.47: proposed to address employment protections for National Guard members called to state active duty for more than 15 days would fit directly into H.149 Page 17, lines 2-9 to provide for longer absences from work when called to state active duty.

Bill H.147: proposed to address the pay disparity between National Guard members called to state active duty and their peer who is called to federal duty, specifically related to subsistence and quarters allowances being exempt from state income tax. This would fit directly into H.149 Page 15, lines 12-19 to provide for this exemption.