

Recommendation: Return to Senate version of SB 2094; add the emergency clause included by the House.

1. **The intent of the law is to recognize the vital role of the Guard and to improve the educational level of its members for the benefit of the state in domestic operations.**

37-07.1-01. Legislative intent and purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to recognize the vital role of the national guard in the state. While the national guard is subject to federal control during periods of national emergency, it is organized, trained, and equipped to perform military functions and to aid civil authorities in the protection of life and property while it is subject to the control of the state. The purpose of this chapter is to encourage voluntary membership in the guard, improve the educational level of its members, and thereby benefit the state as a whole.

2. **Need maximum flexibility to compete with Minnesota and help ensure we don't lose any more units (we are losing an Engineer company this summer, in part, because we failed to meet end-strength).**

North Dakota End-strength:

Assigned: 2941

Authorized: 3070

Percent fill: **96%**

Vacant positions: 129 (equals 1 engineer or Military Police company)

Minnesota End-strength:

Assigned: 10,303

Authorized: 9669

Percent fill: **106.5**

Vacant positions: 0

3. **Finite amount of funds (while this Bill had a fiscal note, it is not "new money") will minimize impact of including on-line, out-of-state schools.**
4. **There are required and recommended courses of study for our members' military or civilian occupations that may not be offered at a North Dakota school. Out-of-state on-line may be the only option.**
5. **Deployed soldiers and airmen education needs may best be met by an on-line, out-of-state school.**