

Leave of absence without loss of pay for military duties
Rep. Brandy Pyle
House Government and Veteran Affairs Committee
January 19, 2023
9 a.m.

Good morning, Chair Schauer and GVA committee. I am State Representative Brandy Pyle from District 22. I am here today to introduce HB 1193.

The intent of this bill is to allow our servicemembers to utilize the 20 days of military leave during the normal training times. This comes as a request as training days or drill weekends are not just a Saturday and a Sunday, but in many cases now include Fridays. Current law only allows usage of the 20 days of military leave when activated or deployed. This change will allow access to the military leave for the longer drill periods.

Members of the committees, let me explain. We like acronyms so here we go!

UTA = Unit Training Assembly, MUTA=Multiple Unit Training Assembly

UTA = 4 hours so 2 MUTA = 8 hours = 1 day

MUTA 4 = 2 days (95% of the time SAT-SUN)

A unit generally gets 48 UTA per year and distribute them how they desire, **with approval from higher level commanders, to best meeting their training objectives**. Units that are slated for mobilization or scheduled to attend a major training exercise will often get additional funding for UTAs and/or Annual Training.

The ND Army National Guard has 50 units and during most months over half of them are doing a MUTA 5 or 6. In rough numbers that is 1,500 Soldiers.

The other issue that comes into play for the change in drill days by adding Friday, is that is a normal scheduled workday. Members may live in Fargo but drill in other communities across the state or vice versa.

In order to be there at 0800 or 1200 on a Friday, they are required to leave on probably a normal workday. Therefore, this proposed change to the military leave will allow our members to serve their communities and fulfill their training responsibilities.

I stand for questions, but I do know there are people behind me that understand the technicalities a lot better than I do that can answer those types of questions.