

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill broadens the eligibility criteria for the pay differential program for state employees when they are ordered into active military service. Under current law the program, eligibility is limited to members of the Minnesota National Guard and other military reserves (i.e., to members of the reserve components of the *U.S. Armed Forces*). The bill would broaden eligibility to include reserve members of the *uniformed services* of the United States.

Under federal law (U.S.C. Title 10, Ch. 1, §101(a)(5)), the term "*uniformed services*" means -

- 1) the *U.S. armed forces* (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard);
- 2) the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
and
- 3) the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service,.

As an example of the effect of this bill, the eligibility expansion would cause to be included in the program any state employee who is a reserve member of the Public Health Service, when that person is mobilized into active service (e.g., as a mortician, lab analyst or other health worker) in response to a hurricane, disease epidemic, terrorist act or other state or national disaster.

Apart from conforming changes (e.g., "*active service*" in place of "*active military service*"), the numerous other language changes in the bill are for housekeeping purposes only, and do not substantively change the program.

Effective Date. The bill applies to Minnesota state employees serving in active service on or after July 1, 2006. It is not retroactive in application.