

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

SB 473, defining the term "field officers" within the national guard.

Hearing Date: January 8, 2026

Time Opened: 10:28 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:31 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon, Altschiller and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill defines the term "field grade officers" or "field officers" for purposes of promotion and appointment within the army national guard to mean officers holding the rank of lieutenant colonel or colonel.

Sponsors:

Sen. McGough

Sen. Watters

Sen. McConkey

Sen. Pearl

Rep. Giasson

Rep. Miles

Rep. Moffett

Who supports the bill: Sen. Tim McGough, Sen. Mark McConkey, Sen. Howard Pearl, Major Gen. David Mikolaities (DMAVS), Nicole Desilets-Bixler (DMAVS), Tony Gagnon (NGANH), Kim MacKay (NHVH), Leo Paquin (SVAC), Kevin Grady (SVAC), Margaret LaBrecque, Eric Pauer

Who opposes the bill: No one.

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Tim McGough:

- This is viewed as a housekeeping bill. The specific term "field officer" as it exists does not have a definition. We are just making sure it has one and that it aligns with goals of the National Guard.

Major Gen. David Mikolaities:

- The term field officer is an ambiguous one. There are no preexisting definitions which could be located. It is believed to be a British colonial military term.

- To err on the side of caution, this definition has been proposed to match up with military positions as they exist.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 12, 2026