

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

SB 566-FN, relative to recruiting incentive programs for the national guard.

Hearing Date: January 8, 2026

Time Opened: 10:50 a.m.

Time Closed: 11:00 a.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill expands the list of eligible national guard service members who refer citizens for enlistment in the national guard, increases the state cash incentive for those who re-enlist or reclassify into a critical unfilled vacancy, and expands the incentive program to include additional recipients for reimbursement for achieving or recertification of credentials and fees associated with their military job specialty.

Sponsors:

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Avard

Sen. Innis

Sen. Watters

Sen. McGough

Sen. McConkey

Sen. Lang

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Carson

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Abbas

Rep. Moffett

Rep. Wood

Rep. Aures

Who supports the bill: Sen. Tim McGough, Sen. Mark McConkey, Sen. Cindy Rosenwald, Sen. Dan Innis, Sen. Donovan Fenton, Sen. Howard Pearl, Major Gen. David Mikolaities (DMAVS), Nicole Desilets-Bixler (DMAVS), Tony Gagnon (NGANH), Kim MacKay (NHVH), 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 Howard Pearl:

- This bill takes on three things.
 - It expands on two programs in the national guard, one for recruitment, one for midcareer financial incentive bonuses
 - It establishes a third program focused on reimbursement for fees and expenses incurred while training for military job specialties.
- The senator emphasizes that there is good data backing up these programs.

Major Gen. David Mikolaities:

- Also in attendance is Lt. Col. Rich Brown who leads recruiting.
- 1st--How do you get recruits? Word of mouth and referrals. Since the referral programs inception 151 service members have been referred through this program. There is evidence it is working. This would expand the number of service members who qualify for a referral bonus.
- 2nd--How do you keep service members in? Federal budget has been tight. We get federal money for bringing people in and *keeping* them in. Purpose, service, and education keep service members in. We want to increase support to our existing education program.
- The third, new, program would allow for us to offer support for certifications when federal funding not available. About 10 emergency flights in NH, this requires lots of certifications. We want to help assist here.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented: None.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 12, 2026