

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1999-00

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on
Veterans and
Military Affairs
(AC-VMA)**

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **99hr_ab0858_AC-VMA_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **



Date: March 28, 2000

BACKGROUND

Under current law, the Governor may order into active service, all or a portion of the National Guard in response to a war, insurrection, rebellion, riot or invasion, in the event of a public disaster resulting from a flood, conflagration or tornado, or upon application of certain public officials. Current law also includes a procedure for activating the National Guard if the Governor is not able to do so.

SUMMARY OF AB 858

Assembly Bill 858 expands the Governor's authority to order the National Guard into active service when the Governor considers that activation is necessary for the protection of persons or property. This could be in anticipation of a public safety issue such as assessing tornado or flood damage, to determine the need for activating additional Guard personnel. This could also be a response team to a potential weapon of mass destruction situation. For example, the destructive winds in June of 1998 in Western Wisconsin were not classified tornado winds as is recognized in the WI Statutes. Therefore it took many hours, because of current statutory language, before the National Guard assessment team could be activated, assess the damage and make recommendations as to what National Guard Assets were needed. Much time had elapsed before the citizens in Jackson, Monroe, and Trempealeau Counties received any assistance, such as water, generators for electricity and tree trimmers.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal estimate prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, indicates that is impossible to predict any fiscal effect. Active duty missions for the Wisconsin National Guard could increase but disasters cannot be predicted. State law specifies that guard members are to be paid the equivalent of the regular military pay and allowances corresponding with their rank when activated.

PROS

1. Citizens will be assisted with more immediate help in cases of natural and other disasters.
2. Assessment teams can be activated more quickly and before additional Guard members are called up.
3. It is in the best interest for our public safety, to have the National Guard more readily available.

CONS

1. None apparent

SUPPORTERS

Rep. Terry Musser, author; Senator Moen, co-author; Randi Wind Milsap, WI Department of Military Affairs; Bonnie Moser, WI National Guard Enlisted Assoc..

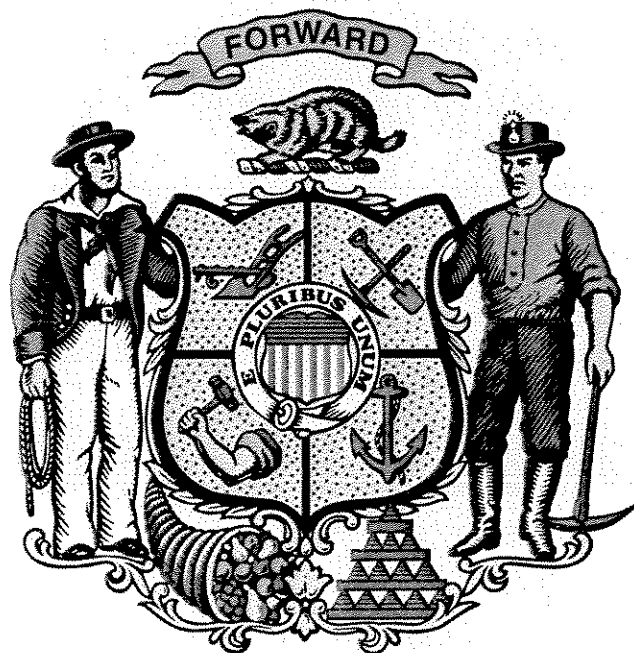
OPPOSITION

No one registered or testified in opposition to AB 858.

HISTORY

Assembly Bill 858 was introduced on March 8, 2000, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs. A public hearing was held on March 15, 2000. On March 15, 2000 the Committee voted 9-1-0 (Representative Joe Plouff voting no) to recommend passage of AB 858.

CONTACT: Marlene Reineking, Office of Rep. Terry Musser



Statement in Support of AB 858
(A bill to allow Guard call-up for public safety issues)

My name is Randi Wind Milsap and I serve as the state legal counsel to the Adjutant General. I am appearing on his behalf today because he is in Washington D.C. I am here to ask your assistance in rectifying a problem we in the Department of Military Affairs have had for a long time. That problem revolves around the National Guard's ability to quickly respond and assess potential emergencies as well as actual emergencies.

The National Guard in Wisconsin primarily supports the State in response to natural disasters like tornadoes and flooding. However, in order to determine how to respond and what to respond with, we send an assessment team out to the general area first, then respond based upon their report. As it currently stands, we must first wait for the event to happen, ask the Governor to declare an emergency, activate the Guard in a State duty status, and only then can we send out the assessment team, before finally responding with the necessary troops

and equipment. We are requesting this legislation to shorten up that cycle of events.

We are asking that the Governor be given slightly broader authority to activate the Guard when he knows a natural or man-made disaster is imminent. In other words, if the public safety or welfare is at risk, the Governor can activate the assessment team so they can be on the ground at the site as quickly as possible. We anticipate this will shorten our response time by as much as half a day and as we all know in an emergency that much time may really be critical. Therefore, the Department of Military Affairs urge you to recommend to the assembly the adoption of this legislation.