



Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas
125 SE Airport Rd, Topeka, KS 66619

March 17th, 2021

To: Senator Caryn Tyson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

From: Troy Abel, Legislative Committee, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas (EANGKS)

RE: HB 2313

Thank you for allowing me to provide unscheduled testimony today in support of HB 2313. K.S.A. 79-5107 currently grants a two vehicle tax exemption to Active Duty Personnel who register their vehicles in Kansas as well as National Guardsmen in an active duty status. The original intent of the amendment in 2014 was to grant this exemption to ALL currently serving National Guardsmen. There are three statuses of Kansas Guardsmen:

1. *Drill Status Guardsmen (DSG)* make up the largest percentage of the National Guard. They are required to serve one weekend a month, and two weeks of Annual Training a year. The rest of the year they are either civilian employees, business owners, homemakers, or often times students.
2. *Federal Technicians* have the same requirements as DSGs. They are also full time Federal Government Employees or "Technicians" much like a postal employee. They are responsible for preparing training of DSGs along with maintaining facilities and equipment for the National Guard during the month. This ensures the guard is in a constant state of mission readiness.
3. *Active Guard and Reservists (AGR)* perform the same function as Federal Technicians. The difference is that they are on a paid status 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. They receive many of the same benefits as an active duty member such as Housing Allowance, Subsistence Allowance, and paid healthcare. The reason for their different pay status is to increase their flexibility of scheduling, and shorten their time to deploy by reducing status change time constraints. As of January 2018, AGRs made up 12.5% of Kansas National Guard membership.

Only the third category, AGR, currently receive the exemption due to the language "active guard and reservists" being used to determine eligibility for the exemption. HB 2313 would correct this and give the exemption to ALL Kansas Guardsmen currently serving in good standing.

Guardsmen traveling to and from training assemblies and reporting for State Active duty (disaster response) do not receive mileage reimbursement. This benefit helps offset the cost of fuel and wear and tear on their vehicle. It also serves as a recruiting and retention incentive to ensure there are enough Kansas Guardsmen available to respond when called upon by the Governor of Kansas, Department of Defense, of the President of the United States.

Thank again for the opportunity to address you today. I would also like to thank all of you for your service to our great state, and your support of past and present guardsmen and their families.

Respectfully,

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