

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8281

To ensure National Guard members performing full-time National Guard duty in support of Federal law enforcement operations receive benefits equivalent to those provided for service during a national emergency.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure National Guard members performing full-time National Guard duty in support of Federal law enforcement operations receive benefits equivalent to those provided for service during a national emergency.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Guard Equal Benefits
5 for Federal Missions Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TITLE 32 SERVICE AS NA-**
2 **TIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 32, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“§ 511. Treatment of certain full-time National Guard**
7 **duty for benefit eligibility**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of any provision of
9 law that provides benefits based on service in response to
10 a national emergency, full-time National Guard duty per-
11 formed under section 502(f) shall be treated as service in
12 response to a national emergency if such duty—

13 “(1) is authorized by the President or the Sec-
14 retary of Defense; and

15 “(2) is performed in direct support of Federal
16 law enforcement operations, including operations
17 conducted in coordination with—

18 “(A) U.S. Immigration and Customs En-
19 forcement;

20 “(B) the Drug Enforcement Administra-
21 tion;

22 “(C) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-
23 arms and Explosives; or

24 “(D) any other Federal law enforcement
25 agency designated by the Secretary of Defense;
26 and

1 “(3) is carried out for the purpose of address-
2 ing—

3 “(A) significant criminal activity;

4 “(B) drug trafficking;

5 “(C) organized crime; or

6 “(D) other threats to public safety as de-
7 termined by the Secretary of Defense.

8 “(b) BENEFITS COVERED.—Service described in sub-
9 section (a) shall be deemed qualifying service for purposes
10 of—

11 “(1) section 12731 of title 10 (retirement age
12 reduction);

13 “(2) section 1145 of title 10 (Transitional As-
14 sistance Management Program);

15 “(3) chapter 33 of title 38 (Post-9/11 GI Bill);
16 and

17 “(4) any other Federal benefit requiring service
18 in response to a national emergency.

19 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
20 tion shall be construed to limit the authority of the Presi-
21 dent to declare a national emergency.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of chapter 5 of title 32, United States
24 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to
25 section 510 the following new item:

“511. Treatment of certain full-time National Guard duty for benefit eligibility.”.

