

SUBJECT: Allowing the Texas State Guard to advertise using appropriated funds

COMMITTEE: Defense & Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Wilson, R. Lopez, Bumgarner, Dorazio, Frank, Garcia, Muñoz, Slaton

0 nays

1 absent — Morales Shaw

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (April 3) — 31 - 0

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that allowing the Texas State Guard to use appropriated funds for advertising recruitment could increase enlistment.

DIGEST: SB 538 would establish that provisions governing the use of appropriated money for publicity would not prohibit the Texas State Guard from using appropriated money for the purpose of recruiting or retaining service members, employees, or other personnel.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.