

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 860
Version:	INT
Request No.:	952
Author:	Sen. Dahm
Date:	01/26/2023

Bill Analysis

SB 860 creates the Oklahoma State Guard and Militia Revitalization Act of 2023. The measure modifies the requirements for a citizen of Oklahoma to be eligible for the militia by lowering the who age from 17 to 16 years of age and adding the requirement that the citizen be sound of mind. Person 70 years of age or older and younger than 17 years of age shall be exempt from mandatory service. The measure requires each county to establish a unit of the Oklahoma State Guard (OSG), which shall operate under a designee at the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma. The measure also provides that privately owned semiautomatic firearms of similar quality as that provided in the military forces of the United States, the National Guard, or the military or police forces of this state may be required to serve in the OSG. The measure also directs the Adjutant General to promulgate rules allowing for the use of any semiautomatic firearm in emergencies.

The state shall fund the OSG units when they are activated upon the order of the Governor or when called to mandatory training. Counties and citizen groups may voluntarily fund personnel, training, equipment, vehicles, and logistics for their respective county OSG units in coordination with the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma. The measure also provides that, beginning December 1, 2023, the registrar of each county shall provide every registered voter with notice of the opportunity for service in and contact information for the county OSG unit, and thereafter, upon first-time voter registration.

The measure directs the Governor to appoint a Commandant of the OSG. County boards of commissioners shall appoint interim County Unit Liaisons of the Oklahoma State Guard and Unorganized Militia, each of whom must have prior honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard and reside in the county no later than November 30, 2023. The measure directs the Oklahoma National Guard to provide a list of persons retired or honorably discharged from the service of the United States or from the National Guard within the last 48 months no later than January 30, 2024, and March 15 each subsequent year. The Adjutant General is required to authorize at least 4 voluntary Multiple Unit Training Assemblies (MUTA) of Inactive Duty for Training (IDT) per month and 15 days of annual training.

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