

- SUBJECT:** Hiring administrative support members of the Texas Military Forces
- COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — S. King, Frank, Aycock, Blanco, Farias, Schaefer  
1 nay — Shaheen
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ernest Garcia)  
Against — None  
On — Duane Waddill, Texas Military Department; John Nichols, Texas Military Forces
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, ch. 437 defines “Texas military forces” as the Texas National Guard, the Texas State Guard, and any other military force organized under state law.  
Members of the Texas military forces are frequently subject to reassignments and rotations between positions. Extended deployments are uncommon, so there is usually no long-term stability in these positions.
- DIGEST:** HB 2965 would allow the adjutant general of the Texas military forces to hire service members to fill state military technical positions with the Texas Military Department. These members would be considered to be on extended state active duty service, which would entitle them to the benefits and paid leave generally provided to state employees.  
The bill would require the adjutant general to establish the criteria for activating these service members, and the Texas Military Department would be required to maintain the criteria.  
The bill would allow for a state military technician position to have a limited term with a defined end date or be a continuing position without a defined end date. The department, as soon as practicable before the end of

each state fiscal year, would be required to notify each member on extended state active duty service as to whether the department would continue the member's position during the next state fiscal year.

The bill would require the Texas Military Department to consult with the classification officer under the Position Classification Act to develop a state salary structure classification that was applicable to service members called to extended state active duty service. The bill would allow for the classification to have automatic salary increases based on the service member's military rank and years of service. It would allow the department to use this salary structure classification before it was adopted in the general appropriations act.

This 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, 2015.

**NOTES:**

According to the Legislative Budget Board's fiscal note, HB 2965 would have a cost to general revenue of \$335,520 in salary and benefits for two state military technical positions during fiscal 2016-17.