

Date of Hearing: August 14, 2012

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
Paul J. Cook, Chair
SJR 28 (Emmerson, Dutton) – As Corrected: June 19, 2012

SENATE VOTE: 35-0

SUBJECT: Department of Defense (DoD) Budget Cuts

SUMMARY: Opposes the budget presented by the United States Air Force to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States. Specifically, in this bill:

1. The Senate and the Assembly of the State of California jointly resolve, that the Legislature joins the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, the California National Guard Association, and the National Guard Association of the United States in opposition to the disproportional budget cuts as presented by the United States Air Force as they adversely impact the California Military Department and the Air National Guard and jeopardize national security and homeland defense; and
2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit copies of this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States and the author for appropriate distribution.

FISCAL EFFECT: This measure is not keyed fiscal.

COMMENTS:

It is likely that on January 2, 2013, the U.S. defense budget will be drastically reduced. The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 set deficit targets. That law stipulated that if spending exceeded the specified targets, a process known as sequester would go into effect. Last August, as part of a negotiated deal, Congress agreed on \$900 billion in spending cuts and the creation of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (the "supercommittee"). The supercommittee was directed to create a plan for \$1.2 trillion more in deficit cuts over a decade. If the supercommittee failed, or if Congress rejected the panel's recommendation, automatic spending cuts would start Jan. 2, 2013.

Because of the failure of the congressional supercommittee to agree on a deficit reduction plan, the 2011 Budget Control Act automatically cuts about \$500 billion from the defense budget. These cuts fall on top of \$487 billion in DoD reductions.

Whether or not a strategy will emerge to avoid sequestration and if not, what the effects of sequestration will be are speculative at this point. However, sending a strong message and taking a position of vigilance and concern about the DoD budget is wise in the face of so much uncertainty.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

AB 342 (Atkins, 2011)- Office of Planning and Research (OPR)- States that the OPR shall serve as the state's liaison to the DoD, particularly with regard to any proposed BRAC actions. In particular the OPR shall "...develop any necessary regional or stateside strategies necessary for the establishment and retention of the state's military facilities and installations that are potentially impacted by any proposed federal Base Realignment and Closure actions."

SJR 19 (Strickland, 2012)- Military Base Closures. This bill urges California Congressional delegates to protect California military bases from closure.

SJR 24 (Harman, 2012)- Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. This bill urges California Congressional delegates to protect Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach from closure.

SJR 25 (Harman, 2012)- Los Alamitos Joint Training Base. This bill urges California Congressional delegates to protect Los Alamitos Joint Training Base from closure.

SJR 26 (Vargas, 2012)- Naval Air Facility El Centro. This bill urges California Congressional delegates to protect Naval Air Facility El Centro from closure.

AJR 42 (Nestande, 2012)- Department of Defense Budget Cuts. Opposes the budget proposed by the United States Air Force.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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