FISCAL 2027 DEFENSE BILL · H.R. 8800 SECTION 1105 · S. 4784 SECTION 513

Ending the National Guard technician program costs more and fixes nothing

The defense bill would replace about nine of every ten technicians with full-time military AGR members. The Pentagon's own numbers show it costs more.

31,699
technician positions authorized in the Army and Air National Guard

89%
would become AGR military positions. The rest become Title 5 civilians

$248M
net added cost, fiscal 2028 to 2032, in the Pentagon's own resource table

$282M
added cost every year by fiscal 2038, Local 1776 conservative model

WHAT THE BILL DOES

Freezes technician hiring on October 1, 2028, and repeals 32 U.S.C. 709 on October 1, 2038.

Converts the workforce to 89 percent AGR and 11 percent Title 5 civilian.

IT COSTS MORE, BY THE PENTAGON'S OWN COUNT

	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	TOTAL
Pentagon's table	$10M	$25M	$46M	$69M	$98M	$248M
Local 1776 model	$0	$28M	$56M	$85M	$113M	$282M

By fiscal 2032 it spends $2.7 billion more a year on AGR pay to save $2.6 billion on civilian and drill-status pay.

A 2017 study done for the Pentagon found the same or higher cost in every reserve component when AGRs replace technicians.

CBO lists the opposite move, replacing military personnel with civilians, as a way to save about $17 billion over ten years.

IT FIXES NOTHING

The Department has not named a job an AGR can do that a technician cannot. Its bill has to amend 32 U.S.C. 328(b) so AGRs may do the maintenance work technicians already do.

The ask

1. Strike section 1105 of H.R. 8800 and section 513 of S. 4784 from the final defense bill.
2. No phase-out without a CBO score and a GAO review that compare the plan with the status quo and with a full Title 5 conversion.

WHAT TECHNICIANS LOSE

Bargaining. AGR members serve on full-time National Guard duty. Federal law makes it a crime to bargain on their behalf (10 U.S.C. 976).

Appeals and complaints. No Merit Systems Protection Board for a firing, no EEOC for discrimination and no union representative. Military channels only.

For good. An executive order can be reversed. A position converted to military status is outside the bargaining law under any president.

THE ALTERNATIVE THE PENTAGON PASSED OVER

Convert technicians to Title 5 civilian positions, as Congress did for part of the workforce in 2017. It keeps every capability and every right, and CBO's work says it saves money. LIUNA supports it.

Read the full analysis, charts and sources

reform.local1776.org/#guard

Scan the code with a phone camera. Every figure on this page is sourced on the site. Figures labeled Local 1776 are our own benchmarks from a June 2026 cost model. They are not an official score.

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