



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 137

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5294

House of Representatives, March 24, 2026

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through REP. FOSTER of the 57th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SERVICE IN THE MILITIA.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 All [male citizens and all male residents of the state who have
4 declared their intention to become citizens of the United States,] persons
5 between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years [,] who are citizens, or
6 who are residents of the state and have declared their intention to
7 become citizens of the United States, and who are not exempt by law,
8 shall be subject to military duty and designated as the militia. [All
9 female citizens and all female residents of the state who have declared
10 their intention to become citizens of the United States, between the ages
11 of eighteen and forty-five years, may enlist voluntarily in any women's
12 unit of the armed forces of the state.]

13 Sec. 2. Section 27-2 of the general statutes is repealed and the
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

15 The militia shall be divided into four classes as follows: The
16 unorganized militia, the organized militia, the National Guard and the
17 naval militia. The National Guard for the purposes of this chapter shall
18 consist of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The
19 unorganized militia shall consist of all [male citizens and all male
20 residents of the state who have declared their intention to become
21 citizens of the United States, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five
22 years, not exempt from military duty by federal or state laws or by such
23 reasons of physical or mental disabilities as shall be prescribed in
24 general orders or regulations published by the Adjutant General and
25 approved by the Governor and who are not members of the organized
26 militia or of the National Guard or of the naval militia, and all female
27 citizens and all female residents of the state who have declared their
28 intention to become citizens of the United States, between the ages of
29 eighteen and forty-five years, who may voluntarily offer their services
30 to the state] persons between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years
31 who are citizens, or who are residents of the state and have declared
32 their intention to become citizens of the United States, who are not
33 exempt from military duty by law and who are not members of any
34 other of such classes. The organized militia shall consist of the
35 Governor's Guards, the State Guard and such other military forces as
36 may be designated by the Governor as commander-in-chief, which may
37 hereafter be organized under the provisions of the laws of this state. The
38 National Guard shall consist of such forces as may be organized and
39 maintained by this state pursuant to the laws and regulations of the
40 United States relating to the National Guard. The naval militia shall
41 consist of such persons as may enlist or be appointed or commissioned
42 therein as a special force for coast protection and as a naval reserve and
43 shall be organized and maintained by this state pursuant to the laws and
44 regulations of the United States relating to the naval militia and may
45 include a marine corps branch of the naval militia subordinate thereto
46 in all matters pertaining to command, discipline or administration. The
47 organized militia, the National Guard, the naval militia and marine

48 corps branch of the naval militia, whenever organized, shall be, for all
49 purposes under the general statutes, the armed forces of the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-1
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-2

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires all citizens and state residents intending to become U.S. citizens, aged 18 to 45, be subject to state military duty in the Unorganized Militia, results in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5294****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SERVICE IN THE MILITIA.****SUMMARY**

This bill requires all citizens and state residents intending to become U.S. citizens, aged 18 to 45, be subject to state military duty, rather than just males. Current law permits females meeting these criteria to volunteer for state military duty.

The bill also makes a technical change to clarify that the National Guard includes the Army National Guard.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND***Related Bill***

HB 5406, favorably reported by the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee, contains an identical provision on the National Guard.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 5 (03/10/2026)