

The National Guard for National Service Act

Sen. John Hickenlooper

The National Guard for National Service Act would establish a pilot partnership between the National Guard and AmeriCorps to create civilian employment opportunities for Guard members and strengthen community resilience nationwide.

AMERICORPS OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS

National Guard members juggle civilian careers with ongoing military obligations, and this service can disrupt career progression and impact long-term career stability. Yet there are few structured pathways to help Guard members apply their skills in civilian roles, even as critical public service roles face persistent staffing shortages.

The National Guard for National Service Act builds on a successful pilot program in Colorado by creating opportunities for National Guard members to partake in AmeriCorps service nationwide. The program would equip participants to protect critical infrastructure, support disaster preparedness, and strengthen cybersecurity for schools and communities.

Last year, AmeriCorps' Colorado chapter (Serve Colorado) partnered with the Colorado National Guard to train Guard members in wildfire mitigation. After completing the program, participants were fully equipped to fight wildland fires, and multiple crew members transitioned into full-time firefighting roles. The National Guard for National Service Act expands this model, facilitating similar partnerships across the country and opening new workforce pathways for members of the National Guard.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

- Directs the National Guard Bureau and the Corporation for National and Community Service to establish a pilot program that addresses Guard unemployment and workforce shortages while advancing community security measures.
- Empowers this new National Guard–AmeriCorps partnership to carry out service activities that safeguard critical infrastructure, strengthen public sector cybersecurity, enhance community preparedness and resilience in major disasters, and create clear career pathways for National Guard and Reserve members through programs authorized under this Act.

