
ADJUTANT GENERAL

- Expressly requires the Adjutant General manage the recruitment of individuals for service in the Ohio Organized Militia.
- Establishes a death benefit entitlement, currently only available to Ohio National Guard member beneficiaries, to the beneficiaries of all members of the Ohio Organized Militia.
- Clarifies the Adjutant General’s authority with respect to administration of the Ohio Cyber Reserve.
- Permits judge advocates, with authorization from the Adjutant General, to provide legal assistance to certain individuals.

Ohio Organized Militia recruitment

(R.C. 5913.01)

The bill expressly requires the Adjutant General to manage the recruitment of individuals for service in the Ohio Organized Militia, which consists of the Ohio National Guard, the Ohio Naval Militia, the Ohio Military Reserve, and the Ohio Cyber Reserve.¹ Under continuing law, the Adjutant General is the commander and administrative head of the Ohio Organized Militia.

Ohio Organized Militia death benefit

(R.C. 5923.12)

The bill requires the Adjutant General to pay a death benefit of \$100,000, to the beneficiary or beneficiaries of a member of the Ohio Naval Militia, the Ohio Military Reserve, or the Ohio Cyber Reserve, who was ordered to state active duty by proclamation of the Governor, and who died while performing that duty. In order to be eligible, a beneficiary or beneficiaries must have been designated in writing on a form prescribed by the Adjutant General. Under current law, a state active duty death benefit is available to beneficiaries of Ohio National Guard members.² The bill expands the benefit to all members of the Ohio Organized Militia.

The Ohio Military Reserve and the Ohio Naval Militia are military and naval forces that the Governor, under law, is required to organize and maintain. The forces are trained to defend the state whenever the Ohio National Guard, or a part thereof, is employed out of state. It is not subject to induction into federal service.³

¹ R.C. 5923.01, not in the bill.

² R.C. 5919.33, not in the bill.

³ R.C. 5920.01, 5921.01, and 5921.12, not in the bill.

The Ohio Cyber Reserve is a civilian cyber security reserve force that the Governor is required by law to organize and maintain. It must be capable of being expanded and trained to educate and protect state, county, and local government entities, critical infrastructure, including election systems, businesses, and citizens of Ohio from cyber attacks.⁴

Ohio Cyber Reserve administration

(R.C. 5922.01)

The bill expressly authorizes the Adjutant General to provide appropriate training to current and potential members of the Ohio Cyber Reserve. Under continuing law, reserve members serve in an unpaid volunteer status while performing any drill or training. The bill clarifies that this applies to both current and potential reserve members.

The bill clarifies that the Adjutant General is authorized to establish rates of pay for members of the Ohio Cyber Reserve.

Further, the bill expressly authorizes the Adjutant General to pay from funds appropriated by the General Assembly the actual and necessary expenses incurred by the Ohio Cyber Reserve for its administration, training, or deployment. The bill specifies that expenses for administration, training, and deployment may include permanent or temporary state employees or contractual internal or external administrative staff, travel and subsistence expenses, the purchase or rental of equipment, hardware, and local operational support.

Judge advocate legal assistance

(R.C. 5913.012)

The bill authorizes the Adjutant General to authorize a judge advocate to provide legal assistance to any of the following:

- Investigative personnel of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation;
- Natural resources law enforcement staff officers;
- Forest-fire investigators;
- Natural resources officers;
- Wildlife officers;
- State highway patrol troopers;
- Special police officers;
- A person commissioned or enlisted in the Ohio Military Reserve;
- The spouse, surviving spouse, dependent parent, minor child, or ward of a person listed above.

⁴ R.C. 5922.01.

The bill authorizes the Adjutant General to specify matters upon which legal assistance may be provided. Furthermore, the Adjutant General may limit services subject to the availability of a judge advocate. Under continuing law, the Adjutant General appoints judge advocates on the recommendation of the state judge advocate. Judge advocates must be officers of the organized militia and members in good standing of the Ohio bar.⁵

⁵ R.C. 5924.06, not in the bill.