
SENATE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Senator Bob Archuleta, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 1508	Hearing Date:	7/14/25
Author:	Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs		
Version:	3/3/25 Introduced		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Jenny Callison		

Subject: Governor's Military Council

DESCRIPTION

Summary:

Extends the establishment of the Governor's Military Council until January 1, 2031.

Existing law:

- 1) Codifies the existence of the Governor's Military Council, serving under the direction of the California Military Department and consisting of members appointed by the Governor.
- 2) Requires that members of the council include, but not be limited to, bipartisan representatives from both houses of the Legislature, with Senate representatives appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and representatives from the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.
- 3) Repeals these provisions on January 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

California is home to more than 30 federal military installations that are vital to our national security and the United States Department of Defense directly employs more than 236,000 people in California. In an effort to protect and expand the military's vital role in national security and California's economy, on March 29, 2013, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. established the Governor's Military Council and appointed former Congresswoman and Under Secretary of State Ellen Tauscher as chair. The Governor's Military Council works to protect California's military installations and operations amid ongoing United States Department of Defense budget cuts, and leverage changes in federal military strategy to position the state to continue innovation and leadership in its military mission.

In its few short years, the GMC has proved uniquely valuable in building connections between military commanders in the state and elected officials, and does so at minimal cost. According to California's military leadership, the GMC "has served as important champions on quality of life issues that impact the nation's military service members, veterans, and their families." They also stated that the GMC's annual Defense Summit "serves as an important gathering of state and local officials, military leaders, the defense industry, and other critical stakeholders to meet and discuss pressing and emerging issues impacting the military in the state."

COMMENT

According to the author: This bill extends the sunset of the GMC, which has been instrumental in fostering relationships between state military leaders and elected officials, all at a low cost. On March 29, 2013, then-Governor Jerry Brown announced the creation of the GMC to support and grow military operations in California. As federal leaders consider cuts and realignment of federal military operations, the GMC articulates the unique military value of California's diverse network of installations and the Californians and businesses supporting them. The GMC also supports the efforts of local and regional organizations to improve partnerships with military installations in their communities.

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, the CMD is responsible for the coordination and management of the GMC. Since 2014, the CMD has received for this purpose an annual \$85,000 General Fund (GF) budget appropriation, \$45,000 for half of a full-time position, and \$40,000 for administrative and operating expenses.

The CMD indicates the current cost to administer the GMC is approximately \$554,000 annually. This includes two staff positions (\$513,000), and operating costs (\$41,000), which is primarily expended for council members' travel and lodging for quarterly conferences. The \$85,000 annual budget allocation covers only the operating costs and part of one position.

As a result, the CMD incurs approximately \$469,000 annually in unbudgeted costs to support the GMC. According to the CMD, the bulk of these costs come from the reassignment of an existing State Active Duty Staff Officer (Colonel) to the GMC at an approximate cost of \$330,000 annually. The CMD indicates it has no discretionary funds to continue its support of the GMC and will request additional GF monies in fiscal year 2026-27 if this bill is enacted.

POSITIONS

Sponsor: Author.

Support: None on File.

Oppose: None on File.

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