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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### AB 1508 (Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs) - Governor's Military Council

**Version:** March 3, 2025

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 18, 2025

**Policy Vote:** M.&V.A. 5 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Lenin Del Castillo

**Bill Summary:** This bill extends the sunset date of the Governor's Military Council (GMC) from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2031.

**Fiscal Impact:** This bill could create General Fund cost pressures in the mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars each year for the California Military Department (CMD) to continue administering the Governor's Military Council.

**Background:** The Governor's Military Council was created on March 28, 2013 to support members of the military in California. AB 442 (Irwin, Chapter 298, Statutes of 2015) codified the council's organization, responsibilities, and composition. Existing law requires members of the council to be appointed by the Governor, including bipartisan representatives of both houses of the Legislature.

Existing law also requires the Governor's Military Council to advise the Governor on efforts to retain military installations and operations within the state that are necessary for national defense, and to coordinate those efforts. The council also supports efforts to build connections and improve partnerships between military commanders in the state, elected officials, and local and regional organizations with military installations in their communities. The Governor's Military Council is scheduled to sunset in statute on January 1, 2026.

**Proposed Law:** This bill extends the establishment of the Governor's Military Council until January 1, 2031.

**Related Legislation:** AB 2192 (Committee on Veterans Affairs), Chapter 74, Statutes of 2020, extends the sunset of the GMC until January 1, 2026.

**Staff Comments:** The CMD is responsible for the coordination and management of the Governor's Military Council. Since 2014, the CMD has received \$85,000 in General Fund each year for this purpose, including \$45,000 for half of a full-time position and \$40,000 for administrative and operating expenses. However, the CMD indicates that the current cost to administer the council 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 CMD indicates that as a result, it incurs about \$469,000 in unbudgeted costs each year to support the Governor's Military Council. 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 council and would need to request additional General Fund resources if this bill is enacted.

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."

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