



FACT SHEET- HB 21-1231 AUTHORIZE THE SPACE FORCE AND SPACE NATIONAL GUARD IN STATE STATUTE

BOTTOM LINE: This bill adds the United States Space Force and the Space National Guard to state statute.

Why do we need this bill?

In December 2019 the United States Space Force was created. It is important that Colorado, as home to many of the US Space Force's installations and assets, include this sixth branch of the military in statute. Additionally, Colorado has the highest concentration of space units in the National Guard. With the inception of the United States Space Force it is imperative that these space units be aligned with that force just like the Army National Guard is aligned with the U.S. Army and the Air National Guard is aligned with the U.S. Air Force.

The federal government is likely to create the Space National Guard in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. By adding this language now, we will be prepared to seamlessly transition our Air National Guard space units to the Space National Guard.

What does the bill change?

In current statute the National Guard is defined as follows: "National Guard" includes the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard." [CRS 28-3-101 (12)]. By adding the words Space National Guard to this section and the other places where the Army National Guard and Air National Guard are separately listed, statute will support the addition of a Space National Guard in Colorado. Additionally, this bill adds "United States Space Force" wherever the other branches of the armed forces are listed in the Colorado Revised Statutes.

Is there a fiscal note to this bill?

No, this bill solely pertains to the addition of the aforementioned service components to existing statute.