

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill clarifies the eligibility requirements for membership in the state's militia, including the Minnesota National Guard. It conforms Minnesota Statutes to federal law and current practice, by clarifying eligibility for women, non-Minnesota residents, and persons under age 18.

- 1 **Broadens eligibility.** Strikes language in current law restricting eligibility in the state militia to resident males who are age 18 or over. New language conforms the state's minimum age requirement to federal code.  
As a practical matter, this bill affects only the Minnesota National Guard, and it simply conforms statute to current practice.  
Technically, however, Minnesota Statutes section 190.06, subdivision 1, defines the "state militia" much more broadly, to include all able bodied resident males aged 18 to 45. Subdivision 2 of that statute defines the following classification for the militia:
  - Organized militia:
    - a) the National Guard;
    - b) the State Guard, which is comprised of all organized components of the militia, except the National Guard (of which none currently exist); and
  - Unorganized militia, which consists of all other members of the militia.Minnesota Statutes chapter 191-which is devoted exclusively to the unorganized militia-authorizes the Governor to call out and organize the militia whenever part or all of the National Guard is called to federal active duty.
- 2 **Noncombatant service.** Strikes the residency requirement pertaining to people whom the Governor may appoint to the medical corps, the nurse corps, and other noncombatant branches and services of the organized militia.