

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 173

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 23, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ALEX SAUICKIE

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress and President to reallocate certain funds from “Inflation Reduction Act of 2022” to increase active military basic pay.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging Congress and the
2 President of the United States to reallocate funds from the
3 Internal Revenue Service to the Department of Defense to
4 increase the pay of certain members of the Armed Forces serving
5 on active duty.
6
7 **WHEREAS**, The United States depends upon the members of its Armed
8 Forces to ensure the safety and security of the nation; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Members of the United States Armed Forces dedicate
10 years of their lives to the service of this country, often being
11 separated from their families for extended periods, forgoing more
12 lucrative employment, and facing life-threatening dangers; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Basic pay for many active duty military members falls
14 below \$15 an hour; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 23,000 active duty military members rely
16 on food stamps, and some rely on other forms of public assistance;
17 and
18 **WHEREAS**, The United States Armed Forces face declining retention
19 and recruitment rates that make it difficult for the Armed Forces to
20 fulfill their core mission of protecting the nation; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Inflation Reduction Act of 2022,” Pub.L.117-
22 169, allocated a total of approximately \$79.6 billion to the Internal
23 Revenue Service in addition to its existing budget; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The Internal Revenue Service plans to use much, if not all,
25 of this funding to increase its number of full-time employees by
26 nearly 87,000 within the next 10 years; and
27 **WHEREAS**, A study by the Transactional Records Access
28 Clearinghouse at Syracuse University determined that in fiscal year
29 2021, the Internal Revenue Service audited taxpayers earning under
30 \$25,000 annually at five times the rate of other taxpayers; and
31 **WHEREAS**, The House of Representatives approved the “Family and
32 Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act,” H.B.23 of the 2023-2024
33 session, which rescinds funds allocated by the “Inflation Reduction
34 Act of 2022” to the Internal Revenue Service; and
35 **WHEREAS**, The federal “Prioritizing Troops Over Tax Collectors Act
36 of 2023,” H.B.161 of the 2023-2024 session, reallocates the
37 additional \$79.6 billion from the Internal Revenue Service to the
38 Department of Defense to increase the pay of certain members of
39 the Armed Forces serving on active duty; and
40 **WHEREAS**, The primary purpose of the “Prioritizing Troops Over Tax
41 Collectors Act of 2023” is to increase basic pay for active duty
42 military service members to a minimum of \$31,200 annual
43 compensation, equivalent to a \$15 hourly wage; and
44 **WHEREAS**, Increasing military basic pay will benefit more Americans
45 and New Jersey residents than increasing funding for the Internal
46 Revenue Service; and
47 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is home to several military bases and many
48 active duty service members and their families; and

1 WHEREAS, Increasing financial stability of active duty service
2 members is in the interest of the State; now, therefore,

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4 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
5 Jersey:

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7 1. This House respectfully urges Congress and the President of
8 the United States to enact the “Prioritizing Troops Over Tax
9 Collectors Act of 2023,” H.R.161 of the 2023-2024 session, in
10 order to reallocate funds from the Internal Revenue Service to the
11 Department of Defense to increase the pay for certain members of
12 the Armed Forces serving on active duty.

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14 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
15 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
16 President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of
17 the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Minority Leader of
18 the United States House of Representatives, and each member of
19 Congress elected from this State.

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21
22 STATEMENT
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24 This resolution urges Congress and the President of the United
25 States to enact the “Prioritizing Troops Over Tax Collectors Act of
26 2023,” H.R.161 of the 2023-2024 session, to reallocate funds from
27 the Internal Revenue Service to the Department of Defense to
28 increase the pay of certain members of the Armed Forces serving on
29 active duty.

30 The Internal Revenue Service audits taxpayers earning under
31 \$25,000 annually at a rate five times taxpayers who earn a higher
32 salary. The House of Representatives passed the “Family and Small
33 Business Taxpayer Protection Act,” H.B.23 of the 2023-2024
34 session, which rescinds funds allocated by the “Inflation Reduction
35 Act of 2022,” Pub.L.117-169, to the Internal Revenue Service.
36 Instead, the “Prioritizing Troops Over Tax Collectors Act of 2023”
37 reallocates these funds to the Department of Defense for the
38 primary purpose of increasing basic pay for all active military
39 service members to at least \$31,200 annually, equivalent to a \$15
40 hourly wage.

41 Currently, approximately 23,000 active duty service members
42 rely on food stamps in the United States, and some rely on other
43 forms of public assistance. New Jersey is home to several military
44 bases, as well as many active duty military members and their
45 families.

46 This resolution urges Congress and the President to move
47 forward with the enactment of the “Prioritizing Troops Over Tax
48 Collectors Act of 2023” to alleviate financial difficulty for active

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- 1 duty service members receiving basic pay and encourage continued
- 2 service in the United States military.*--