Barr Introduces 'No Tax on Drill Pay' Act to Support National Guardsmen, Reservists

Office of Congressman Andy Barr

Washington, D.C.—Today, U.S. Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY) introduced the No Tax on Drill Pay Act, legislation to exempt federal income taxes on Inactive Duty Training (IDT) pay earned by members of the National Guard and Reserve during their drill weekends. U.S. Congressman Max Miller (R-OH) and U.S. Congressman Zach Nunn (R-IA) are original cosponsors of the bill. Congressman Miller served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and Congressman Nunn is currently serving in the Iowa Air National Guard.

Barr's bill recognizes the service and sacrifice of citizen-military members by ensuring the pay they receive for monthly drill weekends and required training is not subject to federal income tax. Barr also strongly supported the Warrior Dividend of $1,776 ahead of Christmas announced by President Trump that some National Guardsmen and Reservists received. Barr also voted to exempt federal taxes on tips, overtime, and social security last year in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

More than 800,000 Americans serve in the Guard and Reserve, and of that, over 15,000 Guardsmen and Reservists are deployed overseas each year. Guardsmen and Reservists play a critical role in U.S. national defense while also responding to emergencies at home—including natural disasters, border security missions, and domestic crises.

Under current law, National Guardsmen and Reservists must pay federal income taxes on compensation received for Inactive Duty Training, which typically includes one weekend of training per month and additional readiness activities throughout the year.

"Members of the National Guard and Reserve answer the call to serve our country while balancing civilian careers and family responsibilities," said Congressman Barr, a past recipient of the Charles Dick Medal of Merit, the highest honor given to elected officials for advocacy of the National Guard. "Ending federal taxes on a portion of their military pay will reward these patriots for their service to our country. The No Tax on Drill Pay Act will boost recruitment and retention, strengthen military readiness, and continue our commitment to treating our military better than any in the world."

"If we truly value the service of our Guardsmen and Reservists, the least we can do is let them keep every dollar they earn while preparing to defend our country," said Congressman Miller. "I am proud to cosponsor the No Tax on Drill Pay Act to ensure the pay they earn during drill weekends stays in their pockets, not Washington's. This bill affirms our commitment to those who boldly defend our nation both at home and abroad."

"Our Guard members and Reservists serve on drill days, training deployments, and stand at the ready for our communities. Time away from families, jobs, and home. Under current law, they pay federal income taxes on every dollar they earn doing it. I hear from Iowa Guardsmen and their families about the financial strain that comes with that commitment, and this bill is a straightforward fix: exempt drill pay from federal income taxes so more of that money stays with the families who earned it," said Congressman Nunn.

"Drill pay is not a bonus – it is compensation for time spent training to respond to emergencies, deploy overseas, and protect the homeland," said Maj. Gen. Francis M. McGinn (Ret.), president of the National Guard Association of the United States. "Exempting inactive-duty training pay from federal income taxes recognizes that service, helps recruit and retain the force, and ensures Guardsmen are not financially penalized for answering the call. NGAUS strongly supports this legislation and thanks Reps. Barr, Miller, and Nunn for introducing a bill that provides meaningful support to the citizen-soldiers and airmen who stand ready every day."

"Thank you, Congressman Barr, for your leadership and recognition of the sacrifices by the brave men and women serving in all reserve components," said Joe Gardner, Executive Director of the Kentucky National Guard Association.

"I strongly support this measure to provide federal tax relief to our reserve and guardsman during drill," said Kentucky State Senator Matthew Deneen (R-SD-10), Chairman of the Kentucky State Senate Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee. "These dedicated men and women providing service to their communities and country both at home and overseas, and they play a vital role in our national security, disaster response efforts and the strength of our armed services. Supporting those who step forward to serve is not only the right thing to do, it's essential to maintaining a strong and ready military."

"The Guard and Reserve are essential to both our national defense and the safety of our communities," said Kentucky State Senator Matt Nunn (R-SD-17), a champion of veterans in Frankfort. "As a former guardsman, I know full well the sacrifices our guardsmen and their families make. Whether responding to emergencies here in our Commonwealth or supporting missions overseas, they serve with professionalism and dedication. I want to thank Congressman Barr for supporting our Guard and Reserve with a proposal that will help them invest in their American Dream while protecting all of ours."

"Kentucky has a long tradition of service, and our Guard and Reserve members are a big part of that legacy," said Kentucky State Representative Bobby McCool (R-HD-14), Chairman of the House Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee. "As a former Air National Guardsmen myself, I know the impact the No Tax on Drill Pay will have on Guard and Reserve families. I commend Congressman Barr for his leadership on this bill and I fully support it."

"Guardsmen and Reservists are always ready to answer the call from Kentucky and the nation," said Kentucky State Representative Stephen Bratcher (R-HD-25), Vice Chair of the House Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee. "Their service often takes place quietly on weekends and during training periods that many people never see. I couldn't think of a better way to reward this patriotic service."

House passes measure aimed toward county gravel road systems

Kentucky House Majority Caucus

FRANKFORT – Yesterday, the Kentucky House passed legislation aimed at modernizing and improving county gravel road systems across the Commonwealth. House Bill 622, sponsored by House Transportation Committee Chair Representative John Blanton (R-Salyersville), would require the Department of Rural and Municipal Aid to oversee a pilot project evaluating the use of chip seal and reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) on county gravel roads. The pilot project would begin on July 1, 2026 and end on June 30, 2030.

"Our state has a significant number of county gravel roads, particularly in rural areas," said Blanton. "Gravel roads can be expensive to maintain, putting strain on a county's road budget. House Bill 622 would allow counties to utilize county road aid funds to modernize and update their county gravel road systems through chip seal or reclaimed asphalt pavement, two cost-effective road maintenance treatments."

Under HB 622, a county may spend county road aid funds on chip seal or RAP up to the percentage of roads in its county road system that are surfaced with gravel on July 1 of that fiscal year. By October 31 of each year beginning in 2027 and ending in 2030, the Department of Rural and Municipal Aid would be required to submit a report on the use of chip seal and RAP on county roads to the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), the administrative arm of the General Assembly.

HB 622 would also prevent the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) from restricting the use of recycled asphalt products used on a project, provided that the asphalt mixture meets the performance standards and criteria used by the cabinet. The cabinet would also be required to submit an annual report by October 31 of each year beginning in 2026 on the use of RAP in projects undertaken by the cabinet to the LRC.

"Giving counties this option would allow them to improve road quality more cost-effectively while laying the groundwork for further modernization in the future," Blanton added.

If enacted, the legislation would take effect July 1, 2026.

HB 622 now heads to the Senate for consideration. For more information and to keep track of its progress, please click here or visit legislature.ky.gov.

Measure focusing on child welfare outcomes clears committee

Kentucky House Majority Caucus

FRANKFORT – Legislation aimed at strengthening the Commonwealth's child welfare standards was approved by the House Standing Committee on Families and Children. House Bill (HB) 778, sponsored by Representative Nick Wilson of Williamsburg, would holistically reform a variety of laws related to abuse and neglect to improve the effectiveness of the Commonwealth's child welfare system.

"Our children are our most vulnerable population and deserve the best standard of care from our state agencies and local governments when dependency, neglect, or abuse is suspected or proven," Wilson said. "This legislation reflects our commitment to the Commonwealth's children and provides the state with the resources it needs to thoroughly protect our children from abuse."

HB 778 would work to support the child welfare system in many ways. First, it would prohibit individuals from serving as foster parents, relative caregivers, fictive kin placements, or adoptive parents if they, or any adult or minor child living in the household, are listed on the adult or juvenile sex offender registry. According to the sponsor, children have been unintentionally placed in households where a registered sex offender has been present, despite policies and regulations prohibiting the placement. This provision clearly states that this placement would be unlawful.

"When children are in state custody, they should feel safe and be placed in safe environments," Wilson added. "With HB 778, we want to make it clear that a child should be placed in a household that meets the specific needs of the individual child."

This measure would also expand information sharing in child welfare and juvenile justice cases by allowing additional individuals access to diversion agreements, abuse and neglect reports, and youthful-offender notifications. This includes certain school officials such as superintendents and directors of pupil personnel. It would strengthen the child fatality and near-fatality review panel by allowing members to access additional records and require participation in the review process from investigative agencies.

"The Commonwealth is proudly among the strictest states in the nation for child privacy protections," Wilson stated. "This measure keeps our commitment to privacy while expanding information sharing to agencies and individuals who require access to improve the way they serve our children. We have worked closely with organizations to ensure privacy remains a top priority, second only to the wellbeing of the children involved with the state."

Additionally, this measure aims to curb the rise in child fatalities and near-fatalities due to the ingestion or inhalation of illicit substances. Under HB 778, ingestion and inhalation would be added to the definition of abuse, and criminal penalties would be established for when a child under 13 suffers serious injury or death after ingesting or inhaling a controlled substance. Further, it would authorize medical professionals to administer comprehensive urine drug screens to parents and children when certain types of abuse or neglect is suspected.

"I have worked alongside many legislators, local officials, and advocacy groups to ensure this legislation effectively improves the way we care for our kids," Wilson added. "The health and welfare of children should be forefront among all of our priorities, and we must ensure that the agencies and officials that care for them are well informed and effectively communicating with one another. HB 778 is the first step in an ongoing process to identify and address shortcomings in our laws and policies to better serve our youth."

This measure will move on to full House of Representatives for further consideration. For more information on HB 778, other legislative measures, or the 2026 Regular Session, please visit legislature.ky.gov.