

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2021-2022**

**H. B. No. 398**

**Representatives Brown, Sweeney**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Blackshear, Boggs, Crossman, Galonski, Howse, Ingram, Jarrells, Kelly, Miller, J., Miranda, O'Brien, Robinson, Russo, Sheehy, Smith, K., Weinstein**

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**A BILL**

To award a one-time bonus to eligible service 1  
members of the Ohio National Guard and the Ohio 2  
State Defense Force, to name the act the 3  
Democracy Bonus Act, and to make an 4  
appropriation. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** (A) As used in this section, "service member" 6  
means a member of either of the following: 7

(1) The Ohio National Guard, as defined in Chapter 5919. 8  
of the Revised Code; 9

(2) The Ohio State Defense Force, composed of the Ohio 10  
Military Reserve, Ohio Naval Militia, and Ohio Cyber Reserve. 11

(B) The purpose of the Democracy Bonus Act is to provide 12  
one-time bonus awards to eligible service members. The Democracy 13  
Bonus Act provides this one-time bonus to all eligible service 14  
members in recognition of the conspicuous service and expanded 15  
missions of the Ohio National Guard and the Ohio State Defense 16

Force in the wake of the society-wide irregularities facing our 17  
state and nation during 2020 and through early 2021 as a result 18  
of the COVID-19 pandemic. Service members took on additional 19  
duties by executing Operation Steady Resolve including, but not 20  
limited to, distributing food and other supplies at food banks, 21  
assisting with vaccination efforts, providing medical and other 22  
staffing assistance in long-term care and correctional 23  
facilities, and assisting the Ohio Department of Job and Family 24  
Services to process unemployment claims and identify fraud. A 25  
service member is eligible to receive a one-time bonus award 26  
under this section if, with respect to the period beginning 27  
March 9, 2020, and ending on the effective date of this act, the 28  
service member meets both of the following requirements: 29

(1) The service member served in a full-time role on 30  
active duty for any length of time between March 9, 2020, and 31  
the effective date of this act, and was an Ohio resident on or 32  
after March 9, 2020; 33

(2) The service member was not subject to any form of 34  
disciplinary action, including a written reprimand, suspension, 35  
dismissal, voluntary or involuntary demotion associated with a 36  
disciplinary action, or discharged under other than honorable 37  
conditions between March 9, 2020, and the effective date of this 38  
act. 39

(C) An eligible service member shall receive a one-time 40  
bonus award of one thousand dollars, regardless of whether the 41  
service member serves in a full-time position as a service 42  
member at the time the award is issued. 43

(D) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of 44  
this section, the Adjutant General shall certify to the Office 45  
of Budget and Management each service member who is eligible to 46

receive a one-time bonus award under division (B) of this section. 47  
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(E) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of this section, the Office of Budget and Management shall, as soon as administratively practicable, issue the one-time bonus award to each eligible service member. 49  
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(F) The Adjutant General may establish guidelines regarding the manner by which the Office of Budget and Management shall issue the one-time bonus awards under division (E) of this section. 53  
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(G) The Auditor of State may audit the program created under this section, including any spending by the Office of Budget and Management under the program against the Adjutant General's records or the records of the Office of Budget and Management, with respect to any one-time bonus award the Office of Budget and Management issues to a service member under this section. 57  
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**Section 2.** All items in this section are hereby appropriated as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the credit of the designated fund. For all appropriations made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year 2022 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2023. The appropriations made in this act are in addition to any other appropriations made for the FY 2022-FY 2023 biennium. 64  
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**Section 3.** 72

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A			OBM OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT		
B		Dedicated Purpose Fund Group			
C	5CV3	042518	Ohio National Guard and Defense Force Awards	\$17,000,000	\$0
D	TOTAL DPF Dedicated Purpose Fund Group			\$17,000,000	\$0
E	TOTAL ALL BUDGET FUND GROUPS			\$17,000,000	\$0

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD AND DEFENSE FORCE AWARDS 74

The foregoing appropriation item 042518, Ohio National  
Guard and Defense Force Awards, shall be used by the Office of  
Budget and Management to provide a one-time bonus award to  
eligible service members of the Ohio National Guard and Ohio  
State Defense Force personnel, as described in Section 1 of this  
act.

An amount equal to the unexpended, unencumbered balance of  
the foregoing appropriation item 042518, Ohio National Guard and  
Defense Force Awards, at the end of fiscal year 2022 is hereby  
reappropriated for the same purpose in fiscal year 2023.

**Section 4.** Within the limits set forth in this act, the  
Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts  
indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation  
made in this act, and shall determine the form and manner in  
which appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures  
from appropriations contained in this act shall be accounted for  
as though made in the main operating appropriations act of the  
134th General Assembly. The appropriations made in this act are

subject to all provisions of the main operating appropriations 93  
act of the 134th General Assembly that are generally applicable 94  
to such appropriations. 95

**Section 5.** This act shall be known as the Democracy Bonus 96  
Act. 97