



TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 101

By: **Selene Rodriguez**, Texas Public Policy Foundation
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Good morning, Chairman Cortez and members of the committee,

My name is Selene Rodriguez, I represent the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and I am here to testify in support of House Bill 101.

The Texas Public Policy Foundation has worked over the last few years to assess the Texas Military Department (TMD) and ensure that the great men and women within the agency are supported and able to accomplish the many missions at hand ([Blair, 2025](#)). Our research supports the fact that the Texas State Guard is in need of modernization and professionalization, as is the goal of House Bill 101.

HB 101 creates a State Guard Professionalization Task Force which will advise the Texas Adjutant General on the professionalization of the Texas State Guard. Given the many responsibilities of the TMD and the dynamic challenges it endures, the establishment of this task force represents a critical opportunity to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and future readiness of the Texas State Guard. By creating a focused, collaborative group of experts, we can address complex challenges and develop innovative solutions that will strengthen the department's capabilities and ensure its sustained success.

The Texas Military Department stands as a pivotal organization in both state and national defense, demonstrating remarkable adaptability and commitment to service.

It is of no surprise that the TMD plays a significant role in national security efforts as well as in our state's emergency response infrastructure. The Texas State Guard, specifically, has played a crucial role in disaster response over the decades, which has led to significant organizational changes.

From combat deployments to natural disaster responses and border security, the TMD's contributions are diverse and significant. However, the agency faces ongoing challenges. Continued support from both state and federal sources will be crucial in ensuring the TMD's ability to meet its wide-ranging responsibilities effectively.

A 2018 Sunset Advisory Commission report identified key issues within TMD, including the Guard's management and support structure, highlighting the need for strategic improvements to ensure its long-term effectiveness and sustainability ([Sunset Advisory Commission, 2019](#)). Our research uses this report (and others) to provide recommendations to professionalize the State Guard and enhance its operational capabilities, improving member morale, and retention.

House Bill 101 continues that effort by creating the task force to include agencies that work regularly with the Texas Military Department to examine its performance and any challenges they may face. As a veteran myself, I appreciate any effort made to ensure that our military capabilities are working at full capacity, meeting the needs of the people they seek to defend, and operating effectively and responsibly. That is what all Texans want.

The creation of this task force is not merely an administrative enhancement, but a strategic investment in the future of the Texas Military Department, ensuring its continued excellence and readiness to serve the state and nation. We thank the committee for its consideration.

Resources

Blair, A. (2025). A critical assessment of the Texas Military Department. Texas Public Policy Foundation. <https://www.texaspolicy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/TMD-Ch.-1-3-FINAL.pdf>

Sunset Advisory Commission. (2019). Texas Military Department: Staff report with final results, 2018– 2019 86th Legislature. <https://www.sunset.texas.gov/public/uploads/files/reports/Military%20Department%20Staff%20Report%20with%20Final%20Results.pdf>

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