

# Legislative Analysis

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## MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER DEFENSE FORCE

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5376 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Gary Glenn**  
**Committee: Military and Veterans Affairs**  
**Complete to 5-4-16**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

The Michigan Military Act authorizes the governor to organize a "defense force" known as the Michigan Volunteer Defense Force (MVDF). The statute says the governor may activate, within the military establishment, such number of units as considered necessary for adequate emergency assistance to the state. When activated, the MVDF must perform missions as determined by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in cooperation with the Department of State Police and the state emergency preparedness plan.

The act says that the members of the MVDF shall not be equipped with any type of weapon except (1) when the National Guard has been called into federal service in time of national emergency and the mission of the MVDF to whom weapons are issued consists primarily of the protection of public property; and (2) during training conducted by the National Guard or State Police.

House Bill 5376 would amend the Michigan Military Act to add a third instance of when weapons could be issued. It would require the adjutant general to ensure that one member of the active service stationed at each armory or military facility is armed with a firearm for the purpose of protecting himself or herself, and others. The member who is armed would have to be trained in the use of firearms to carry out the purpose of this section.

("Active service" is defined in the act as "service, including active state service and special duty required by law, regulation, or pursuant to order of the governor. Active service includes continuing service of an active member of the National Guard and the defense force in fulfilling that active member's commission, appointment, or enlistment.")

MCL 32.621

### FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill would have no fiscal impact on the Michigan National Guard.

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