

State of New Hampshire

By His Excellency

Craig R. Benson, Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2003-4

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE WITH RESPECT TO STATE EMPLOYEES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE OR NATIONAL GUARD AND HAVE BEEN CALLED TO FULL TIME ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OR UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A GOVERNOR IN RESPONSE TO THE CONFLICT IN IRAQ

WHEREAS, members of the Reserve Components of Armed Forces of the United States of America have been ordered to active duty by the President of the United States or under the authority of a Governor in support of the conflict in Iraq. The phrase "or under the authority of a governor" shall apply to any employee of the State of New Hampshire who is a member of a Reserve Component and is ordered to active duty under my authority in support of the conflict in Iraq. This phrase shall also apply to any employee of the State of New Hampshire who is a member of a Reserve Component in another state and is ordered to active duty under the authority of the governor of the other state in support of the conflict in Iraq.

WHEREAS, the United States is engaged in a conflict with the country of Iraq and as part of this operation certain Reserve units and National Guard units have been, or will be, called to active military duty by the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the State of New Hampshire to support the United States of America and its efforts in the conflict in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, a number of employees of the State of New Hampshire who serve in the United States Armed Forces as a part of the Reserve and National Guard have been called to active military duty as a part of the conflict in Iraq or are subject to being called into active duty as a part of this conflict; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire supports its employees who are called to active military duty by the President of the United States or under the authority of a Governor to support the efforts of the United States in Iraq and desires to take steps to help ease the financial burden of those employees who have been called to risk their lives in service of their country in the Iraqi conflict; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire should supplement or replace the wages (in order to keep them whole) of any employee of the State who has been called to active military duty to support the operations of the United States in Iraq;

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire should maintain health and dental insurance coverage for eligible legal dependents of any employee of the State who has been called to active military duty as a result of the Iraqi conflict during their period of service;

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire should continue to make contributions to the New Hampshire Retirement System to ensure that any employee of the State who have been called to active duty as a result of the Iraqi conflict shall continue to earn creditable service throughout their period of service;

WHEREAS, at my request, the Labor Management Committee today passed a resolution supporting the provision of benefits outlined in this Executive Order to the those employees who are called to active duty by the President of the United States or under the authority of a Governor as members of the Reserve or National Guard in support of the Iraqi conflict.

NOW THEREFORE, I, CRAIG R. BENSON, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, by the authority vested in me by Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order that:

1. Employees of State of New Hampshire who are currently on active or are called to full time active duty by the President of the United States or under the authority of a Governor as members of the Reserve or National Guard while on such active military duty to support the United States in the Iraqi conflict shall be entitled to special leave with partial pay for an additional period not to exceed one year beginning March 21, 2003. Partial pay shall be the difference in the employee's regular state salary and the employee's full time military salary. The provisions of this Executive Order shall apply to all State employees that have been called or are later called to such active military duty to respond to the conflict in Iraq.

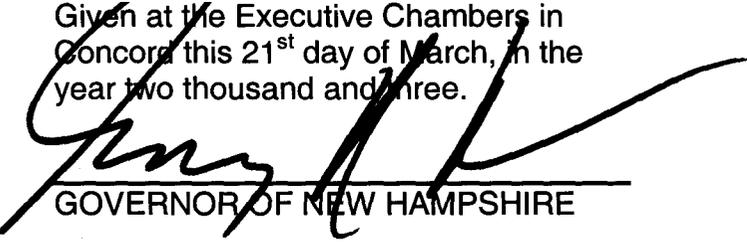
2. The Adjutant General is hereby directed to provide to the Department of Personnel a list of all members of the National Guard so affected and their respective salaries, and other reserve component units are encouraged to voluntarily provide the same information.

3. It is the policy of this Administration that said employees shall remain state employees while on such active military duty for the purpose of seniority and accruing retirement time. Provided, however, earnable compensation and

retirement benefits shall not be increased or decreased by any partial payment made pursuant to this Executive Order but shall be computed as if no call to active military duty had occurred.

4. All entities of state government, including those not under the direct jurisdiction of the Executive branch, are hereby encouraged to support state employees called to active military duty by the President of the United States as a member of the Reserve or National Guard.

Given at the Executive Chambers in
Concord this 21st day of March, in the
year two thousand and three.



GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE