

**The original documents are located in Box 32, “5/14/76 - Remarks Upon Signing S. 2115: Selected Reserve of the Armed Forces, Louisville, Kentucky” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

SIGNING CEREMONY, SENATE BILL S. 2115

FRIDAY - MAY 14, 1976

1.

IN CREATING AN ALL VOLUNTEER MILITARY FORCE;

OUR COUNTRY HAS STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THE KEY ROLE WHICH OUR

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES PLAY IN OUR OVERALL DEFENSE.

2.

EXISTING LAW REQUIRES THAT A NATIONAL EMERGENCY  
BE DECLARED PRIOR TO ANY INVOLUNTARY MOBILIZATION OF OUR  
RESERVE FORCES. THIS MEANS THAT THESE FORCES ARE NOT NOW  
AVAILABLE TO AUGMENT OUR ACTIVE FORCES IN THE VERY CASES WHERE  
THEIR PROMPT AVAILABILITY MIGHT INDEED PREVENT A SITUATION FROM  
DEVELOPING INTO A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

3.

THIS BILL PROVIDES THE PRESIDENT WITH THE  
AUTHORITY TO CALL TO ACTIVE DUTY NO MORE THAN 50,000 MEMBERS  
OF THE SELECTED RESERVE TO SERVE FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED  
90 DAYS.

4.

UNDER THIS LEGISLATION, WE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY  
UTILIZE MANY KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD  
FORCES. FOR EXAMPLE, OVER 60 PERCENT OF OUR TACTICAL  
AIRLIFT AND OVER 50 PERCENT OF OUR STRATEGIC AIRLIFT CAPABILITY  
ARE MADE UP OF RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL.

5.

IN SIGNING THIS BILL, I CAN ASSURE THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT ITS PROVISIONS WILL BE INVOKED ONLY  
WHEN CLEARLY WARRANTED AND AT SUCH TIMES MOST JUDICIOUSLY.

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