

NSB - 1007

AN ACT

To

Provide for a Department of Defense with a Secretary of Defense for the purpose of superintending the branches of Soundland Armed Forces, and to codify the National Security Council and the structure of the armed forces into law.

Introduced
February 9th, 2025

By Senator Aiden Kraft

Be it enacted by the National Senate of the Republic of Soundland,

Section 1: Short Title

This Act shall be cited as the “National Security & Defense Act”.

Section 2: Intent

The intent of this act is to provide for a Department of Defense, under the leadership of a Secretary of Defense, to oversee the branches of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, and any other such branches of the Soundland Armed Forces as may be established at a later date, and to provide for the codifying of the National Security Council into law.

Section 3: Definitions

In this Act:

(a) “Department” means, unless otherwise stated, refers to the proposed Department of Defense, an executive department of the Republic of Soundland;

(b) “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Department of Defense;

(c) “Armed Forces” refers to the armed forces of the Republic of Soundland as established by the constitution;

(d) “Chief of Defense” refers to a Chief of one of the services of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Soundland;

Section 4: The Armed forces

(a) The armed forces of the Republic of Soundland shall comprise of three branches of service:

- (i) The Soundland Army, commanded by the Chief of the Army;
- (ii) The Soundland Navy, commanded by the Chief of the Navy; and
- (iii) The Soundland Air Force, commanded by the Chief of the Air Force.

(b) The Chiefs of Defense shall be appointed, with the advice of the Secretary of Defense, by the President with the advice and approval of the National Senate, from the personnel of such service.

(c) Each branch of service may be divided into such branches or corps, formations, commands, units, and other parts as their respective Chief of Defense determines from time to time, taking into account the regulations of the Department of Defense.

Section 5: Department of Defense

There is hereby established an executive department of the government of the Republic of Soundland, to be called the Department of Defense, of which shall be led by a Secretary of Defense, who shall be appointed by the President with the advice and approval of the National Senate.

Section 6: Superintending of the branches of the Armed Forces

The Department of Defense, under the authority of the Secretary of Defense, shall superintend and take command over all services of the Armed Forces.

Section 7: Powers of the Secretary of Defense

- (a) The Secretary is the principal assistant to the President in all matters relating to the Department of Defense.
- (b) Subject to the direction of the President, the Secretary has authority, direction, and control over the Department of Defense in its operations and administration.
- (c) For the purposes of the general responsibility of the Secretary in relation to the Defense of Soundland, the Secretary shall have the power of control of the Soundland Armed Forces, which shall be exercised through the Chiefs of Defense.
 - (i) The Secretary may make regulations for the organization, training, discipline, efficiency, administration, and good governance of the Soundland Armed Forces and generally for carrying the purposes and provisions of this Act into effect.
- (d) The Secretary shall have the power to formulate advice and assessments on Defense policy to the Government and, upon request, the National Senate;

Section 8: National Security Council

- (a) There shall exist a National Security Council, hereafter referred to as “the Council”, which shall exist as a body of the Executive Office of the President.
- (b) The functions of the Council shall be to—
 - (i) advise the President with respect to the integration of domestic, foreign, and military policies relating to national security so as to inform the policy of the Soundlandian Government and to enable the Armed Forces and the other departments and agencies of the Soundlandian Government to cooperate more effectively in matters involving national security;
 - (ii) make recommendations to the President concerning policies on matters of common interest to the departments and agencies of the Soundlandian Government concerned with national security;

- (iii) assess and appraise the objectives, commitments, and risks of the Republic of Soundland in relation to the foreign relations and military actions of the Republic of Soundland, and make recommendations thereon to the President; and
 - (iv) coordinate, without assuming operational authority, the response of the Soundlandian Government to malign foreign influence operations and campaigns.
- (c) The Council consists of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the State Intelligence Service, the Secretary of the Department of Justice and Civil Security, and such other officers of the Soundlandian Government as the President may designate.
- (d) The President may designate such other officers of the Soundlandian Government as the President considers appropriate, including the Secretary of the Department of Health and Public Safety, the Secretary of the Department of the Treasury, and the Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Defense, to attend and participate in meetings of the Council.
- (e) At meetings of the Council, the President shall preside or, in the absence of the President, a member of the Council designated by the President shall preside.
- (f) The President shall have the authority to create civil and support positions relating to the Council.

Section 9: The Joint Chiefs of Defense

- (a) There shall be established, in the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Defense. The Joint Chiefs of Defense shall consist of the following positions:
- (i) The Chief of the Army;
 - (ii) The Chief of the Navy; and

- (iii) The Chief of the Air Force.
- (b) The Joint Chiefs of Defense shall be headed by a Chair. The Chair shall be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, from the officers of the regular components of the armed forces.
- (c) The Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Defense is the principal military adviser to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense.
 - (i) The other members of the Joint Chiefs of Defense are military advisers to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense.
 - (ii) In carrying out their functions, duties, and responsibilities, the Chair shall, as necessary, consult with and seek the advice of-
 - (1) the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and
 - (2) the ranking operational officers of the services.
 - (iii) After first informing the Secretary of Defense and the Chair, the members of the Joint Chiefs of Defense, individually or collectively, in their capacity as military advisors, may provide advice to the President, the National Security Council, or the Secretary of Defense on a particular matter on the judgment of the military member.
- (d) In addition to their advisory responsibilities, the Joint Chiefs of Defense may consult and coordinate on operations and strategies among their respective armed services. However, they shall at no point exercise operational command.

Section 10: Severability

If any provision of this act, or the application of a provision to any person or circumstance, is held by a court to be invalid, the remainder of this act, or the application of the provision other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected.

Section 11: Date of Effect

This act shall take effect three days after the date of its enactment.

As Introduced in the 2nd National Senate, 2 /09/ 2025