

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC DEFENSE BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing the national guard service professional
2 qualification scholarship program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.210, subsection 6, paragraph a, Code
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Notwithstanding section 8.33, funds appropriated
4 for purposes of this section which remain unencumbered or
5 unobligated at the close of the fiscal year for which the funds
6 were appropriated shall not revert but shall be available for
7 expenditure for the following fiscal year upon the authority
8 of the adjutant general for purposes of this section, section
9 256.210A, and section 256.211.

10 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **256.210A National guard service**
11 **professional qualification scholarship program.**

12 1. A national guard service professional qualification
13 scholarship program is established to be administered by the
14 college student aid commission for members of the Iowa national
15 guard who are participating in an educational program leading
16 to a credential that is approved by the adjutant general and
17 offered by a community college, an institution of higher
18 learning under the state board of regents, or an accredited
19 private institution. The college student aid commission shall
20 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this section.

21 2. An individual is eligible for the national guard
22 service professional qualification scholarship program if the
23 individual meets all of the following conditions:

24 a. Is a resident of the state and a member of an Iowa army
25 or air national guard unit while receiving scholarship award
26 payments issued pursuant to this section.

27 b. Satisfactorily completed required initial active duty
28 training.

29 c. Maintains satisfactory performance of duty upon return
30 from initial active duty training.

31 d. Is enrolled in an educational program that has been
32 approved by the adjutant general and is offered by a community
33 college as defined in section 260C.2, an institution of higher
34 learning under the control of the board of regents, or an
35 accredited private institution as defined in section 256.183.

1 e. Is maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward a
2 credential.

3 f. Provides proper notice of national guard status to the
4 community college or institution at the time of registration
5 for the term in which program benefits are sought.

6 g. Completes and submits application forms required by the
7 commission and applies for all nonrepayable state and federal
8 financial aid for which the member is eligible.

9 h. Submits an application to the adjutant general of
10 Iowa, on forms prescribed by the adjutant general, who shall
11 determine eligibility and whose determination is final.
12 Notwithstanding any deadline established for the administration
13 of this paragraph, the adjutant general shall accept an
14 application submitted pursuant to this paragraph from an
15 otherwise eligible member of the national guard who was on
16 federal active duty at the time of such deadline.

17 3. Scholarship awards paid pursuant to this section shall
18 not exceed the total cost charged by the institution attended
19 by the national guard member for the educational program
20 leading to a credential. If the amount available for, or
21 appropriated in, a fiscal year for purposes of this section
22 is insufficient to provide scholarships to all national guard
23 members who apply for the program and who are verified by the
24 adjutant general to be eligible for the program, the adjutant
25 general shall, in coordination with the college student aid
26 commission, determine the distribution of scholarships.

27 4. The eligibility of applicants and scholarship award
28 amounts to be paid shall be certified by the adjutant general
29 to the college student aid commission, and all amounts that
30 are or become due to a community college, accredited private
31 institution, or institution of higher learning under the
32 control of the state board of regents under this section shall
33 be paid to the college or institution by the college student
34 aid commission upon receipt of certification by the president
35 or governing board of the educational institution as to

1 accuracy of charges made, and as to the attendance and academic
2 progress of the individual at the educational institution.
3 The college student aid commission shall maintain an annual
4 record of the number of participants and the dollar value of
5 the awards issued.

6 5. The adjutant general shall publish and maintain a list of
7 approved educational programs that are eligible for purposes of
8 this section.

9 6. The adjutant general has the authority under this section
10 to authorize the expenditure of unencumbered or unobligated
11 funds as described in section 256.210, subsection 6, for
12 purposes of this section.

13 7. For purposes of this section, "*credential*" means a
14 postsecondary certificate or other competency-based credential
15 that is not authorized for federal student aid under Tit.
16 IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.
17 "*Credential*" does not include an associate degree or any degree
18 beyond an associate degree.

19

EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill establishes the national guard service
23 professional qualification scholarship program within
24 the college student aid commission. The program provides
25 scholarships to members of the Iowa national guard who are
26 participating in an educational program leading to a credential
27 that is approved by the adjutant general and offered by a
28 community college, an institution of higher learning under the
29 state board of regents, or an accredited private institution.
30 The bill requires the adjutant general to publish and maintain
31 a list of approved educational programs. The bill defines
32 "*credential*" to mean a postsecondary certificate or other
33 competency-based credential that is not authorized for federal
34 student aid, but does not include an associate degree or any
35 degree beyond an associate degree. The bill establishes

1 eligibility criteria for the program.

2 The bill provides that scholarship awards paid pursuant to
3 the program shall not exceed the total cost charged by the
4 institution attended by the national guard member for the
5 educational program.

6 The bill provides that the eligibility of applicants and
7 scholarship award amounts to be paid shall be certified by the
8 adjutant general to the college student aid commission, and
9 all amounts that are or become due to a community college,
10 accredited private institution, or institution of higher
11 learning under the control of the state board of regents under
12 the program shall be paid to the college or institution by the
13 college student aid commission upon receipt of certification by
14 the president or governing board of the educational institution
15 as to accuracy of charges made, and as to the attendance
16 and academic progress of the individual at the educational
17 institution.

18 The bill authorizes the adjutant general to expend funds
19 appropriated for purposes of the national guard service
20 scholarship program, established in Code section 256.210, which
21 remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the fiscal
22 year for which the funds were appropriated in the following
23 fiscal year for purposes of the national guard service
24 professional qualification scholarship program.