House Study Bill 6 - Introduced

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

A BILL FOR

An Act making changes to certain limitations within the national guard educational assistance program.

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

S.F. _____ H.F. _____

Section 1. Section 261.86, subsection 3, Code 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3. *a.* An eligible member of the national guard, attending an institution as provided in subsection 1, paragraph *"d"*, ~~as a full-time student,~~ shall not receive educational assistance under this section for more than ~~eight semesters, or if attending as a part-time student for not more than sixteen semesters,~~ one hundred twenty credit hours of undergraduate study~~, or the trimester or quarter equivalent~~. A national guard member who has met the educational requirements for a baccalaureate degree is ineligible for educational assistance under this section.

b. A member of the national guard who received educational assistance under this section prior to July 1, 2015, shall be deemed to have received educational assistance for the following number of credit hours for educational assistance received before that date:

(1) For each semester that the member received educational assistance while attending an institution as a full-time student, twelve credit hours.

(2) For each semester that the member received educational assistance while attending an institution as a part-time student, six credit hours.

(3) For each trimester or quarter that the member received educational assistance while attending an institution as a full-time or part-time student, the number of credit hours that are determined to be the semester equivalent by the college student aid commission.

EXPLANATION

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

This bill makes changes to program limitations within the national guard educational assistance program.

Under current law, participation in the national guard educational assistance program is limited by semesters of

attendance, or the trimester or quarter equivalent. The bill replaces these limitations by providing that an eligible member of the Iowa national guard may not receive assistance under the program for more than 120 credit hours of undergraduate study. The bill includes transition provisions relating to educational assistance received under the program prior to July 1, 2015.