

House File 2323 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2323
BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AFFAIRS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 556)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act modifying provisions related to the national guard
2 service scholarship program and establishing the national
3 guard service continuing education scholarship program.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

DIVISION I

NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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2
3 Section 1. Section 256.210, subsection 2, Code 2024, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 2. a. Scholarship Subject to paragraph "b", scholarship
6 awards paid pursuant to this section shall not exceed the
7 resident tuition rate established for institutions of higher
8 learning under the control of the state board of regents.
9 ~~If the amount appropriated in a fiscal year for purposes of~~
10 ~~this section is insufficient to provide scholarships to all~~
11 ~~national guard members who apply for the program and who are~~
12 ~~determined by the adjutant general to be eligible for the~~
13 ~~program, the adjutant general shall, in coordination with~~
14 ~~the commission, determine the distribution of scholarships.~~
15 ~~However, scholarship awards paid pursuant to this section and~~
16 shall not be less than fifty percent of the resident tuition
17 rate established for institutions of higher learning under
18 the control of the state board of regents or fifty percent of
19 the tuition rate at the institution attended by the national
20 guard member, whichever is lower. ~~Neither eligibility nor~~
21 ~~scholarship award determinations shall be based upon a national~~
22 ~~guard member's unit, the location at which drills are attended,~~
23 ~~or whether the eligible individual is a member of the Iowa army~~
24 ~~or air national guard.~~

25 b. Notwithstanding paragraph "a", scholarship awards paid
26 pursuant to this section shall not exceed the difference
27 between the tuition rate at the institution attended by the
28 national guard member less any financial aid the national guard
29 member receives under 10 U.S.C. §2007.

30 c. If the amount appropriated in a fiscal year for purposes
31 of this section is insufficient to provide scholarships to
32 all national guard members who apply for the program and who
33 are determined by the adjutant general to be eligible for the
34 program, the adjutant general shall, in coordination with the
35 commission, determine the distribution of scholarships.

1 d. Neither eligibility nor scholarship award determinations
2 shall be based upon a national guard member's unit, the
3 location at which drills are attended, or whether the eligible
4 individual is a member of the Iowa army or air national guard.

5 DIVISION II

6 NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE CONTINUING EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

7 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256.210A National guard service
8 continuing education scholarship program.

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

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

24 b. Satisfactorily completed required initial active duty
25 training.

26 c. Maintains satisfactory performance of duty upon return
27 from initial active duty training, including attending a
28 minimum ninety percent of scheduled drill dates and attending
29 annual training.

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

35 e. Is maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward a

1 credential.

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

5 *g.* Completes and submits application forms required by
6 the commission, including the free application for federal
7 student aid, 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
11 shall determine eligibility and whose decision 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 2. 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 appropriated in a
21 fiscal year for purposes of this section is insufficient to
22 provide scholarships to all national guard members who apply
23 for the program and who are determined by the adjutant general
24 to be eligible for the program, the adjutant general shall, in
25 coordination with the college student aid commission, determine
26 the distribution of scholarships. Neither eligibility nor
27 scholarship award determinations shall be based upon a national
28 guard member's unit, the location at which drills are attended,
29 or whether the eligible individual is a member of the Iowa army
30 or air national guard.

31 3. The eligibility of applicants and scholarship award
32 amounts to be paid shall be certified by the adjutant general
33 of Iowa to the college student aid commission, and all amounts
34 that are or become due to a community college, accredited
35 private institution, or institution of higher learning under

1 the control of the state board of regents under this section
2 shall be paid to the college or institution by the college
3 student aid commission upon receipt of certification by the
4 president or governing board of the educational institution
5 as to accuracy of charges made, and as to the attendance
6 and academic progress of the individual at the educational
7 institution. The college student aid commission shall maintain
8 an annual record of the number of participants and the dollar
9 value of the awards issued.

10 4. The adjutant general shall publish and maintain a list of
11 approved educational programs that are eligible for purposes of
12 this section.

13 5. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated
14 for purposes of this section which remain unencumbered
15 or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year for which
16 the moneys were appropriated shall not revert but shall be
17 available for expenditure for the purposes designated upon the
18 authority of the adjutant general.

19 6. For purposes of this section, "*credential*" means a
20 postsecondary certificate or other competency-based credential.
21 "*Credential*" does not include an associate degree or any degree
22 beyond an associate degree.

23

EXPLANATION

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

26 This bill modifies provisions related to the national guard
27 service scholarship program and establishes the national guard
28 service continuing education scholarship program.

29 DIVISION I — NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

30 The national guard service scholarship program, administered by
31 the college student aid commission, provides annual awards to
32 Iowa national guard members who attend eligible Iowa colleges
33 and universities. Current law provides that scholarship awards
34 under the program shall not exceed the resident tuition rate
35 established for institutions of higher learning under the

1 control of the state board of regents. The bill provides that
2 the amount of the scholarship awards also shall not exceed
3 the difference between the tuition rate at the institution
4 attended by the national guard member less any financial aid
5 the national guard member receives under certain specified
6 federal programs.

7 DIVISION II — NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE CONTINUING EDUCATION
8 SUPPORT PROGRAM. The bill establishes the national guard
9 service continuing education scholarship program within
10 the college student aid commission. The program provides
11 scholarships to members of the Iowa national guard who are
12 participating in an educational program leading to a credential
13 that is approved by the adjutant general and offered by a
14 community college, an institution of higher learning under the
15 state board of regents, or an accredited private institution.
16 The bill requires the adjutant general to publish and maintain
17 a list of approved educational programs. The bill defines
18 "credential" to mean a postsecondary certificate or other
19 competency-based credential, but does not include an associate
20 degree or any degree beyond an associate degree. The bill
21 establishes eligibility criteria for the program.

22 The bill provides that scholarship awards paid pursuant to
23 the program shall not exceed the total cost charged by the
24 institution attended by the national guard member for the
25 educational program. The bill also provides that neither
26 eligibility nor scholarship award determinations shall be based
27 upon a national guard member's unit, the location at which
28 drills are attended, or whether the eligible individual is a
29 member of the Iowa army or air national guard.

30 The bill provides that the eligibility of applicants and
31 scholarship award amounts to be paid shall be certified by the
32 adjutant general of Iowa to the college student aid commission,
33 and all amounts that are or become due to a community college,
34 accredited private institution, or institution of higher
35 learning under the control of the state board of regents under

1 the program shall be paid to the college or institution by the
2 college student aid commission upon receipt of certification by
3 the president or governing board of the educational institution
4 as to accuracy of charges made, and as to the attendance
5 and academic progress of the individual at the educational
6 institution.

7 The bill establishes that moneys appropriated for purposes
8 of the program which remain unencumbered or unobligated at
9 the close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall be
10 available for expenditure for the purposes designated upon the
11 authority of the adjutant general.