

House File 117 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 117
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 3)

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:

unofficial

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 for
4 purposes of this section which remain unencumbered or unobligated
5 at the close of the fiscal year for which the funds were
6 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 to
16 a credential that is approved by the adjutant general and offered
17 by a community college, an institution of higher learning under
18 the state board of regents, or an accredited private institution.
19 The college student aid commission shall adopt rules pursuant to
20 chapter 17A to administer this section.

21 2. An individual is eligible for the national guard service
22 professional qualification scholarship program if the individual
23 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 for
5 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 Iowa,
10 on forms prescribed by the adjutant general, who shall determine
11 eligibility and whose determination is final. Notwithstanding
12 any deadline established for the administration of this
13 paragraph, the adjutant general shall accept an application
14 submitted pursuant to this paragraph from an otherwise eligible
15 member of the national guard who was on federal active duty at
16 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 leading
20 to a credential. If the amount available for, or appropriated
21 in, a fiscal year for purposes of this section is insufficient
22 to provide scholarships to all national guard members who apply
23 for the program and who are verified 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.

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 control
32 of the state board of regents under this section shall be paid to
33 the college or institution by the college student aid commission
34 upon receipt of certification by the president or governing
35 board of the educational institution as to accuracy of charges

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

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

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

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

18 EXPLANATION

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

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

35 The bill provides that scholarship awards paid pursuant to

1 the program shall not exceed the total cost charged by the
2 institution attended by the national guard member for the
3 educational program.

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

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