

**House Study Bill 3 - Introduced**

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:

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.