



**HEADQUARTERS IOWA NATIONAL GUARD**  
**Office of the Adjutant General**  
*Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center*  
7105 NW 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824

NGIA-TAG

4 December 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR Members of the Iowa General Assembly

SUBJECT: Department of Public Defense policy bill relating to the National Guard Professional Qualification Scholarship Program (New Code Section)

1. The Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship (INGSS) Program, administered by the Bureau of Iowa College Aid/Education Department, is a vital recruitment incentive needed to maintain a fully capable and mission-ready military force.
2. Under existing Iowa Code, the Adjutant General of Iowa (TAG) may utilize INGSS funds toward three categorial uses: 1) undergraduate degrees (associate and bachelor), 2) STEM master's degrees, and 3) STEM Student Loan Repayment Program.
3. This policy proposal would create a fourth use by extending TAG authority to receive and approve applications from service members to attend select certificate-generating programs at accredited institutions that are already approved to receive INGSS funds. No new appropriations are requested.
4. The proposed Professional Qualification Scholarship program, nested under the existing INGSS Program, would:
  - a. Authorize scholarships to Iowa National Guard service members of who are participating in an educational program leading to a credential that is approved by TAG and offered by a community college, an institution of higher learning under the state board of regents, or an accredited private college;
  - b. Require the Bureau of Iowa College Aid to maintain an annual record of the number of participants and the dollar value of the awards issued;
  - c. Direct TAG to publish and maintain a list of approved educational programs;
  - d. Define "credential" to mean a postsecondary certificate or other competency-based credential but does not include an associate degree or any degree beyond an associate degree; and
  - e. Establish detailed program-eligibility criteria.
5. Point of contact is Tina Shaw at [tina.k.shaw.civ@army.mil](mailto:tina.k.shaw.civ@army.mil) or 515-252-4406.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen E. Osborn".

STEPHEN E. OSBORN  
Major General, Iowa National Guard  
The Adjutant General