

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6164

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Higher Education & Workforce Development, January 25, 2012

Title: An act relating to rights of higher education students involved in military service.

Brief Description: Regarding the rights of certain higher education students involved in military service.

Sponsors: Senators Hobbs, Hill, Tom, Baumgartner, Pridemore, Benton, McAuliffe, Zarelli, Harper, Kilmer, Ranker, Haugen, Schoesler, Kastama, Conway, Chase and Roach.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 1/17/12, 1/25/12 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Tom, Chair; Shin, Vice Chair; Hill, Ranking Minority Member; Baumgartner, Becker, Frockt, Kastama, Kilmer and Stevens.

Staff: Katherine Taylor (786-7434)

Background: A member of the Washington National Guard or any other military reserve component who is a student at an institution of higher education and who is ordered for a period exceeding 30 days to either active state service or to federal active military service has the right to the following:

- withdraw from one or more courses for which tuition and fees have been paid that are attributable to the courses;
- be given a grade of incomplete and be allowed to complete the course upon release from active duty under the institution's standard practice for completion of incompletes; or
- continue and complete the course for full credit.

If the student chooses to withdraw, the student has the right to be readmitted and enrolled as a student at the institution, without penalty or redetermination of admission eligibility, within one year following release from the state or federal active military service.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: A member of the Washington National Guard or any other military reserve component who is a student at an institution of higher education and who is ordered for a period of 30 days or less to either active or inactive state or federal service and as a result of that service or follow-up medical treatment for injury incurred during that service, misses any class, test, examination, laboratory, or other event upon which a course grade or evaluation is based, is entitled to make up the class, test, examination, laboratory, or event without prejudice to the final course grade or evaluation.

If the faculty member teaching the course determines that the student has completed sufficient work and has demonstrated sufficient progress toward meeting course requirements to justify the grade without making up the class, test, examination, or other event, the grade may be awarded without the make up, but the missed class, test, examination, laboratory, or other event must not be used in any way to adversely impact the student's grade or standing in the class.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: We need to protect and help students who have military service assignments that last less than 30 days. We are in favor of this bill. When you have a short military assignment, you get very little notice to coordinate with teachers and classes.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Eric Lint, Associated Students of UW Tacoma; Kathryn Leathers, WA State Bar Assn.; Scott Copeland, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges.