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SENATE BILL 6164

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

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

Read first time 01/12/12. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to rights of higher education students involved in  
2 military service; and amending RCW 28B.10.270.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.270 and 2004 c 161 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) A member of the Washington national guard or any other military  
7 reserve component who is a student at an institution of higher  
8 education and who is ordered for a period exceeding thirty days to  
9 either active state service, as defined in RCW 38.04.010, or to federal  
10 active military service has the following rights:

11 (a) With regard to courses in which the person is enrolled, the  
12 person may:

13 (i) Withdraw from one or more courses for which tuition and fees  
14 have been paid that are attributable to the courses. The tuition and  
15 fees must be credited to the person's account at the institution. Any  
16 refunds are subject to the requirements of the state or federal  
17 financial aid programs of origination. In such a case, the student  
18 shall not receive credit for the courses and shall not receive a

1 failing grade, an incomplete, or other negative annotation on the  
2 student's record, and the student's grade point average shall not be  
3 altered or affected in any manner because of action under this item;

4 (ii) Be given a grade of incomplete and be allowed to complete the  
5 course upon release from active duty under the institution's standard  
6 practice for completion of incompletes; or

7 (iii) Continue and complete the course for full credit. Class  
8 sessions the student misses due to performance of state or federal  
9 active military service must be counted as excused absences and must  
10 not be used in any way to adversely impact the student's grade or  
11 standing in the class. Any student who selects this option is not,  
12 however, automatically excused from completing assignments due during  
13 the period the student is performing state or federal active military  
14 service. A letter grade or a grade of pass must only be awarded if, in  
15 the opinion of the faculty member teaching the course, the student has  
16 completed sufficient work and has demonstrated sufficient progress  
17 toward meeting course requirements to justify the grade;

18 (b) To receive a refund of amounts paid for room, board, and fees  
19 attributable to the time period during which the student was serving in  
20 state or federal active military service and did not use the facilities  
21 or services for which the amounts were paid. Any refund of room,  
22 board, and fees is subject to the requirements of the state or federal  
23 financial aid programs of origination; and

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

28 (2)(a) A member of the Washington national guard or any other  
29 military reserve component who is a student at an institution of higher  
30 education and who is ordered for a period of thirty days or less to  
31 either active or inactive state or federal service and as a result of  
32 that service or follow-up medical treatment for injury incurred during  
33 that service, misses any class, test, examination, laboratory, or other  
34 event upon which a course grade or evaluation is based, is entitled to  
35 make up the class, test, examination, laboratory, or event without  
36 prejudice to the final course grade or evaluation.

37 (b) If the faculty member teaching the course determines that the  
38 student has completed sufficient work and has demonstrated sufficient

1 progress toward meeting course requirements to justify the grade  
2 without making up the class, test, examination, or other event, the  
3 grade may be awarded without the make up, but the missed class, test,  
4 examination, laboratory, or other event must not be used in any way to  
5 adversely impact the student's grade or standing in the class.

6 (3) The protections in this section may be invoked as follows:

7 (a) The person, or an appropriate officer from the military  
8 organization in which the person will be serving, must give written  
9 notice that the person is being, or has been, ordered to qualifying  
10 service; and

11 (b) Upon written request from the institution, the person shall  
12 provide written verification of service.

13 ~~((3))~~ (4) This section provides minimum protections for students.  
14 Nothing in this section prevents institutions of higher education from  
15 providing additional options or protections to students who are ordered  
16 to state or federal active military service.

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