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**SENATE BILL 5614**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Randall, Holy, Conway, Das, Kuderer, Lovick, Mullet, Nobles, Padden, Stanford, and C. Wilson; by request of Military Department

Prefiled 12/29/21. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington national guard postsecondary  
2 education grant program; and amending RCW 28B.103.010 and  
3 28B.103.020.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.103.010 and 2020 c 297 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
8 this section apply throughout this section and RCW 28B.103.020 and  
9 28B.103.030.

10 (1) "Eligible student" means a member of the Washington national  
11 guard who attends an institution of higher education that is located  
12 in this state and accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools  
13 and Colleges, or an institution that is located in this state that  
14 provides approved training under the Montgomery GI Bill, and who  
15 meets any additional selection criteria adopted by the office and all  
16 of the following participation requirements:

17 (a) (~~(Has not achieved a baccalaureate or higher degree from any~~  
18 ~~postsecondary institution)) Enrolled in courses or programs that lead  
19 to a postsecondary degree or certificate;~~

20 (b) Is an active drilling member in good standing in the  
21 Washington national guard as specified in rules adopted by the office

1 for implementation of the Washington national guard postsecondary  
2 education grant;

3 (c) Has completed and submitted an application for student aid  
4 approved by the office;

5 (d) Is a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012; and

6 (e) Agrees to fulfill his or her service obligation.

7 (2) "Forgiven" or "to forgive" or "forgiveness" means either to  
8 render service in the Washington national guard in lieu of monetary  
9 repayment, or to be relieved of the service obligation under rules  
10 adopted by the office.

11 (3) "Grant" means the Washington national guard postsecondary  
12 education grant as established in RCW 28B.103.020.

13 (4) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance  
14 created in RCW 28B.76.090.

15 (5) "Participant" means an eligible student who has received a  
16 Washington national guard postsecondary education grant under this  
17 chapter.

18 (6) "Service obligation" means serving in the Washington national  
19 guard for a time period of at least one year of service in the  
20 Washington national guard for each year the student receives a  
21 Washington national guard postsecondary education grant.

22 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.103.020 and 2020 c 297 s 2 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the  
25 Washington national guard postsecondary education grant program is  
26 established. The program shall be administered by the office. In  
27 administering the program, the powers and duties of the office shall  
28 include, but need not be limited to:

29 (1) With the assistance of the Washington military department,  
30 the selection of eligible students to receive the Washington national  
31 guard postsecondary education grant as follows:

32 (a) An eligible student may receive a grant under this section to  
33 help pay for postsecondary education program costs as approved by the  
34 office. (~~Awards shall be valued as follows~~) Grants may not:

35 (i) (~~The difference between the student's tuition and required~~  
36 ~~fees, less the value of any federal and state funded grant,~~  
37 ~~scholarship, or waiver assistance the students [student] receives;~~  
38 and

1       ~~(ii) Five hundred dollars for books and materials)~~ Exceed the  
2 maximum Washington college grant as defined in RCW 28B.92.030, plus  
3 \$500 for books and supplies;

4       (ii) Exceed the student's cost of attendance, when combined with  
5 all other public and private grants, scholarships, and waiver  
6 assistance the student receives; or

7       (iii) Result in reduction of a participant's federal or other  
8 state financial aid.

9       (b) The Washington military department shall ensure that data  
10 needed to identify eligible recipients are promptly transmitted to  
11 the office.

12       (c) The annual amount of each Washington national guard  
13 postsecondary education grant may vary, but may not exceed the annual  
14 cost of undergraduate tuition fees and services and activities fees  
15 at the University of Washington, plus an allowance for books and  
16 supplies.

17       (d) Washington national guard postsecondary (~~(education)~~)  
18 education grant eligibility may not extend beyond five years or one  
19 hundred twenty-five percent of the published length of the program in  
20 which the student is enrolled or the credit or clock-hour equivalent;

21       (2) The award of grants funded by federal and state funds,  
22 private donations, or repayments from any participant who does not  
23 complete the participant's service obligation;

24       (3) The adoption of necessary rules and policies, including  
25 establishing a priority for eligible students attending an  
26 institution of higher education located in this state that is  
27 accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges;

28       (4) The adoption of participant selection criteria. The criteria  
29 may include but need not be limited to requirements for: Satisfactory  
30 academic progress, enrollment in courses or programs that lead to a  
31 baccalaureate degree or an associate degree or a certificate, and  
32 satisfactory participation as a member of the Washington national  
33 guard;

34       (5) With the assistance of the Washington military department,  
35 the notification of participants of their additional service  
36 obligation or required repayment of the Washington national guard  
37 postsecondary education grant; and

1           (6) The collection of repayments from participants who do not  
2 meet the service obligations.

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