
HOUSE BILL 1943

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68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Leavitt, Jacobsen, Ryu, Rule, Christian, Couture, Bronoske, Slatter, Chambers, Reeves, Reed, Graham, Timmons, Orwall, Paul, Riccelli, and Shavers

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1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington national guard postsecondary
2 education grant program; and amending RCW 28B.103.010, 28B.103.020,
3 and 28B.103.030.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.103.010 and 2022 c 68 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (~~Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the~~) The
8 definitions in this section apply throughout this ~~((section and RCW~~
9 ~~28B.103.020 and 28B.103.030))~~ chapter unless the context clearly
10 requires otherwise.

11 (1) "Dependent" means a person enrolled as a dependent in the
12 defense enrollment eligibility reporting system.

13 (2) "Eligible student" means a member of the Washington national
14 guard ~~((who attends an institution of higher education that is~~
15 ~~located in this state and accredited by the Northwest Association of~~
16 ~~Schools and Colleges, or an institution that is located in this state~~
17 ~~that provides approved training under the Montgomery GI Bill, and~~
18 ~~who))~~ or the spouse or dependent of, and designated by, a member who
19 agrees to fulfill his or her service obligation and meets any
20 additional selection criteria adopted by the office and all of the
21 following participation requirements:

1 (a) (~~Enrolled~~) Is enrolled in courses or a program that lead to
2 a postsecondary degree or certificate at an institution of higher
3 education located in the state and accredited by the Northwest
4 Association of Schools and Colleges, or an institution that is
5 located in the state that provides approved training under the
6 Montgomery GI Bill;

7 (b) Is an active drilling member, or the spouse or dependent of,
8 and designated by, an active drilling member. The member must be in
9 good standing in the Washington national guard as specified in rules
10 adopted by the office for implementation of the (~~Washington national~~
11 ~~guard postsecondary education~~)) grant;

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

14 (d) Is a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012 (~~;~~and
15 ~~(e) Agrees to fulfill his or her service obligation~~)).

16 (~~(2)~~) (3) "Forgiven" or "to forgive" or "forgiveness" means
17 either to render service in the Washington national guard in lieu of
18 monetary repayment, or to be relieved of the service obligation under
19 rules adopted by the office.

20 (~~(3)~~) (4) "Grant" means the Washington national guard
21 postsecondary education grant as established in RCW 28B.103.020.

22 (~~(4)~~) (5) "Member" means a member of the Washington national
23 guard who has received, or whose spouse or dependent has received, a
24 grant under this chapter.

25 (6) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance
26 created in RCW 28B.76.090.

27 (~~(5)~~) (7) "Participant" means an eligible student who has
28 received a (~~Washington national guard postsecondary education~~)
29 grant under this chapter.

30 (~~(6)~~) (8) "Service obligation" means (~~serving~~) an obligation
31 by the member to serve in the Washington national guard for a time
32 period of at least one year of service in the Washington national
33 guard for each year the (~~student~~) participant receives a
34 (~~Washington national guard postsecondary education~~)) grant.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.103.020 and 2022 c 68 s 2 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
38 Washington national guard postsecondary education grant program is
39 established. The program shall be administered by the office. In

1 administering the program, the powers and duties of the office shall
2 include, but need not be limited to:

3 (1) With the assistance of the Washington military department,
4 the selection of eligible students to receive the (~~Washington~~
5 ~~national guard postsecondary education~~) grant as follows:

6 (a) An eligible student may receive a grant under this section to
7 help pay for postsecondary education program costs as approved by the
8 office. Grants may not:

9 (i) Exceed the maximum Washington college grant as defined in RCW
10 28B.92.030, plus \$500 for books and supplies;

11 (ii) Exceed the (~~student's~~) participant's cost of attendance,
12 when combined with all other public and private grants, scholarships,
13 and waiver assistance the (~~student~~) participant receives; and

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

16 (b) The Washington military department shall ensure that data
17 needed to identify eligible (~~recipients~~) students are promptly
18 transmitted to the office.

19 (c) The annual amount of each (~~Washington national guard~~
20 ~~postsecondary education~~) grant may vary, but may not exceed the
21 annual cost of undergraduate tuition fees and services and activities
22 fees at the University of Washington, plus an allowance for books and
23 supplies.

24 (d) (~~Washington national guard postsecondary education grant~~)
25 Grant eligibility may not extend beyond (~~five~~) six years or (~~one~~
26 ~~hundred twenty-five~~) 150 percent of the published length of the
27 program in which the (~~student~~) participant is enrolled or the
28 credit or clock-hour equivalent;

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

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

36 (4) The adoption of participant selection criteria. The criteria
37 may include but need not be limited to requirements for: Satisfactory
38 academic progress, enrollment in courses or programs that lead to a
39 baccalaureate degree or an associate degree or a certificate, and

1 satisfactory participation as a member of the Washington national
2 guard;

3 (5) With the assistance of the Washington military department,
4 the notification of (~~participants~~) members of their additional
5 service obligation or required repayment of the (~~Washington national~~
6 ~~guard postsecondary education~~) grant; and

7 (6) The collection of repayments from (~~participants~~) members
8 who do not meet the service obligations.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.103.030 and 2020 c 297 s 3 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) (~~Participants in the Washington national guard postsecondary~~
12 ~~education grant program~~) Members incur an obligation to repay the
13 grant, with interest, unless they serve in the Washington national
14 guard for one year for each year they or their spouse or dependent
15 received the grant, under rules adopted by the office.

16 (2) The office shall adopt rules addressing the terms for
17 repayment, including applicable interest rates, fees, (~~and~~)
18 deferments, and appeals, by a (~~participant~~) member who does not
19 render service as a member of the Washington national guard necessary
20 to satisfy his or her service obligation.

21 (3) The office is responsible for collection of repayments made
22 under this section. The office shall exercise due diligence in such
23 collection, maintaining all necessary records to ensure that maximum
24 repayments are made. Collection and servicing of repayments under
25 this section shall be pursued using the full extent of law, including
26 wage garnishment if necessary. The office is responsible to forgive
27 all or parts of such repayments under the criteria established in
28 this section, and shall maintain all necessary records of forgiven
29 payments.

30 (4) Receipts from the payment of principal or interest paid by or
31 on behalf of participants shall be deposited with the office and
32 shall be used to cover the costs of administration of the grant,
33 maintaining necessary records, and making collections under
34 subsection (3) of this section. The office shall maintain accurate
35 records of these costs, and all receipts beyond those necessary to
36 pay such costs shall be used to make grant awards to eligible
37 students.

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