

HOUSE BILL No. 5451

April 17, 2014, Introduced by Rep. Rendon and referred to the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

A bill to provide for tuition assistance at certain educational institutions for Michigan national guard members; and to prescribe duties for certain state officials.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Michigan national guard tuition assistance act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Active service" means that term as defined in section 105
5 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.505.

6 (b) "Adjutant general" means the adjutant general of this
7 state.

8 (c) "Eligible educational institution" means a public or

1 private college, university, vocational school, technical school,
2 or trade school located in this state.

3 (d) "Eligible person" means a member of the Michigan national
4 guard who meets all of the following conditions:

5 (i) Is in active service.

6 (ii) Is not absent without leave or under charges described in
7 the Michigan code of military justice of 1980, 1980 PA 523, MCL
8 32.1001 to 32.1148.

9 (iii) Any other criteria determined by the adjutant general
10 consistent with Michigan national guard recruiting and retention
11 requirements.

12 (e) "Fund" means the Michigan national guard tuition
13 assistance fund created in section 4.

14 (f) "Tuition" means the cost of a course of study at an
15 eligible educational institution, including the cost of
16 instructional fees, laboratory fees, computer fees, and other fees
17 directly related to that eligible person's specific course of study
18 at that eligible educational institution. Tuition does not include
19 the cost of books and study materials.

20 (g) "Tuition assistance program" means the Michigan national
21 guard tuition assistance program created in section 3.

22 Sec. 3. (1) The Michigan national guard tuition assistance
23 program is created within the department of military and veterans
24 affairs.

25 (2) The adjutant general shall administer the tuition
26 assistance program and prescribe forms and procedures to
27 effectively carry out the tuition assistance program.

1 (3) An eligible person may apply for tuition assistance, not
2 to exceed \$4,500.00 in any academic year, from the tuition
3 assistance program before enrolling in an eligible educational
4 institution. The adjutant general shall approve the application if
5 the applicant is an eligible person and if there is sufficient
6 money in the fund to cover the cost of the amount requested on the
7 application.

8 (4) If an eligible person has enrolled in an eligible
9 educational institution and has not applied for and received
10 tuition assistance from the tuition assistance program, the
11 eligible person may apply for tuition assistance for the full
12 amount of the tuition paid to the eligible educational institution
13 not to exceed \$4,500.00 in any academic year. The adjutant general
14 shall approve the application if the applicant is an eligible
15 person and if there is sufficient money in the fund to cover the
16 cost of the amount requested on the application.

17 (5) The tuition assistance program applies to any course of
18 study that is intended to culminate in vocational or technical
19 training, a certificate, or the eligible person's first associate
20 degree, bachelor's degree, or master's degree.

21 (6) The tuition assistance program applies to an eligible
22 person notwithstanding any other educational incentive or benefit
23 received by the eligible person under any other educational
24 assistance program provided by any other law.

25 (7) Upon completion of a course of study, an eligible person
26 who successfully applied for and received tuition assistance under
27 subsection (3) or (4) shall provide evidence of attendance and

1 completion of the course of study in a manner prescribed by the
2 adjutant general.

3 (8) An eligible person who received tuition assistance under
4 subsection (3) or who received reimbursement for the cost of
5 tuition under subsection (4) and who did not complete the course of
6 study for which it was granted shall reimburse the fund the full
7 amount received in a manner prescribed by the adjutant general.

8 Sec. 4. (1) The Michigan national guard tuition assistance
9 fund is created within the state treasury.

10 (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from
11 any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall
12 direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit
13 to the fund interest and earnings from the fund.

14 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall
15 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

16 (4) The department of military and veterans affairs shall be
17 the administrator of the fund for auditing purposes.

18 (5) The adjutant general shall expend money from the fund to
19 provide tuition assistance to an eligible person for the cost of
20 tuition to an eligible educational institution under section 3(3)
21 or to reimburse an eligible person for the cost of tuition paid to
22 an eligible educational institution under section 3(4) for a course
23 of study completed by the eligible person.