

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4253

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 30, 2009

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JACK CONNERS

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblywoman ELEASE EVANS

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman Wagner, Assemblymen Conaway, Milam,
Assemblywoman McHose and Assemblyman Greenwald**

SYNOPSIS

Requires member of New Jersey National Guard to apply for all tuition benefits available through U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in order to qualify for tuition-free enrollment at a public institution of higher education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee on November 30, 2009, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/8/2009)

1 AN ACT concerning tuition assistance for members of the New
2 Jersey National Guard and amending N.J.S.18A:62-24 and
3 N.J.S.18A:62-25.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. N.J.S.18A:62-24 is amended to read as follows:

9 18A:62-24. a. Any member of the New Jersey National Guard
10 shall be permitted to attend regularly-scheduled courses at any
11 public institution of higher education in this State enumerated in
12 N.J.S.18A:62-1 and receive up to 16 credits per semester tuition-
13 free provided that:

14 (1) the member has completed Initial Active Duty Training and,
15 except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection c. of this
16 section, is in good standing as an active member of the New Jersey
17 National Guard;

18 (2) the member has been accepted to pursue a course of
19 undergraduate study and is enrolled as an undergraduate student in
20 good standing at that institution or a course of graduate study and is
21 enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at that institution;
22 **[and]**

23 (3) the member has applied for all available State student grants
24 and scholarships and all available federal student grants and
25 scholarships for which the member is eligible; and

26 (4) the member has applied for all tuition benefits available
27 through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for which
28 the member is eligible.

29 b. The State shall reimburse a public institution of higher
30 education for the tuition cost of each National Guard member who
31 enrolls in the institution pursuant to the provisions of this section to
32 the extent that the tuition cost is not paid through tuition benefits
33 available to the member through the United States Department of
34 Veterans Affairs.

35 c. Any member of the New Jersey National Guard whose
36 enrollment in a public institution of higher education on a tuition-
37 free basis pursuant to subsection a. of this section is interrupted by a
38 deployment to active duty shall be permitted to receive the free
39 tuition benefit after discharge from service under conditions other
40 than dishonorable. In the event of a non-medical discharge or a
41 medical discharge that is not caused by an illness or injury related
42 to the performance of duties for the National Guard, eligibility for
43 the free tuition benefit shall begin from the date of discharge and
44 shall continue for one semester or a period of time equal to the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted November 30, 2009.

1 length of the deployment, whichever is longer. In the event of
2 medical discharge or medical retirement as a result of illness or
3 injury incurred in the combat theater, as a result of terrorist action,
4 or in the response to a natural disaster, eligibility for the free tuition
5 benefit shall begin from the date of discharge or retirement and
6 shall continue until completion of the degree program in which
7 enrolled or for five years, whichever occurs first.

8 (cf: P.L.2007, c.11, s.1)

9

10 2. N.J.S.18A:62-25 is amended to read as follows:

11 18A:62-25.Any child or surviving spouse of a member of the
12 New Jersey National Guard who heretofore completed Initial Active
13 Duty Training and was killed in the performance of his duties while
14 on active duty with the New Jersey National Guard, or who
15 hereafter completes Initial Active Duty Training and is killed in the
16 performance of his duties while a member of the New Jersey
17 National Guard, shall be permitted to attend regularly-scheduled
18 courses at any public institution of higher education in this State
19 enumerated in N.J.S.18A:62-1 and receive up to 16 credits per
20 semester tuition-free provided that:

21 a. the child or spouse has been accepted to pursue a course of
22 undergraduate study and is enrolled as an undergraduate student in
23 good standing at that institution or a course of graduate study and is
24 enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at that institution;

25 b. the child or spouse has applied for all available State student
26 grants and scholarships and all available federal student grants and
27 scholarships for which the child or spouse is eligible; **[and]**

28 c. the child or spouse has applied for all tuition benefits
29 available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
30 for which the child or spouse is eligible; and

31 d. available classroom space permits and tuition-paying
32 students constitute the minimum number required for the course.

33 (cf: P.L.2007, c.11, s.2)

34

35 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be first
36 applicable to the ¹**[2009-2010]** 2010-2011¹ academic year.