

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 35

By: Senator J. English
By: Representative M. Berry

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING TUITION BENEFITS FOR SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN OF THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD; TO ALLOW A TEMPORARY WAIVER OF THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL ACTIVE DUTY TRAINING REQUIREMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING TUITION BENEFITS FOR SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN OF THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD; AND TO ALLOW A TEMPORARY WAIVER OF THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL ACTIVE DUTY TRAINING REQUIREMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-60-214(a), concerning tuition benefits for soldiers and airmen of the Arkansas National Guard, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A soldier or airman of the Arkansas National Guard may attend a state-supported institution of higher education tuition-free if the soldier or airman:

(1) Is an Arkansas resident;

(2) ~~Has~~ Except as provided in subdivision (f)(3) of this section, has completed initial active duty training; ~~and, except~~

(3) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, is in good standing as an active soldier or airman of the Arkansas National Guard;



~~(3)~~(4) Has been accepted to and is enrolled in a state-supported institution of higher education as a student in good standing;

~~(4)~~(5) Completed and submitted to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);

~~(5)~~(6) Submitted applications for:

(A) Federal and state grants and scholarships for which the soldier or airman is eligible; and

(B) Grants and scholarships awarded by the state-supported institution of higher education in which the soldier or airman is enrolled;

~~(6)~~(7) Is enrolled in a program of study leading to an undergraduate degree; and

~~(7)~~(8) Has not received a bachelor's degree.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-60-214(f), concerning tuition benefits for soldiers and airmen of the Arkansas National Guard, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(3) In the event of an exigent circumstance that warrants a temporary waiver of the initial active duty training requirement in accordance with the rules promulgated under subdivision (h)(1) of this section, the soldier or airman is eligible to receive the tuition benefit under this section.

APPROVED: 2/9/21