



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 709: NCNG Tuition Assistance Benefit Amendment

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Re-ref to Education/Higher Education. If fav, re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget	Date:	July 22, 2015
Introduced by:	Rep. G. Martin	Prepared by:	Denise Adams* Legislative Analyst
Analysis of:	First Edition		

SUMMARY: House Bill 709 would extend eligibility for North Carolina National Guard tuition assistance to eligible North Carolina National Guard members enrolled in a program granting graduate certificates.

CURRENT LAW: Tuition assistance is available under the North Carolina National Guard Tuition Assistance Act of 1975 to eligible¹ active members of the North Carolina National Guard who are enrolled or will enroll in any of the following: (i) an in-State business or trade school licensed by the State Board of Education; (ii) an in-State private educational institution which does not operate for profit; or (iii) a State educational institution, and are seeking:

- completion of their secondary school education at a community college or technical institute;
- trade or vocational training or education;
- two-year associate degree;
- four-year baccalaureate degree; or
- a graduate degree.

G.S. 116-209.54(b).

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 709 would amend G.S. 116-209.54(b) to extend eligibility for tuition assistance to eligible members of the North Carolina National Guard who are enrolled in a program granting a graduate certificate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: The North Carolina National Guard Assistance Program is administered by the State Education Assistance Authority. Active members of the National Guard may apply for the tuition assistance benefit and recipients meet eligibility criteria. Program funds are dispersed on a first-come, first-served basis until the annual funding is depleted.

**This summary was substantially contributed to by Bill Patterson, Staff Attorney.*

¹ To be eligible to receive this tuition assistance, the person must have a minimum obligation of two years remaining as a member of the North Carolina National Guard from the end of the academic period for which tuition assistance is provided, or must commit himself or herself to extended membership for at least two years from the end of that academic period. G.S. 116-209.54(a).

O. Walker Reagan
Director



Research Division
(919) 733-2578