



**HOUSE BILL 709:  
North Carolina National Guard Tuition  
Assistance Benefit Amendment**

2015-2016 General Assembly

**Committee:**  
**Introduced by:**  
**Analysis of:** S.L. 2015-198

**Date:**  
**Prepared by:** Kara McCraw  
Staff Attorney

**SUMMARY:** *S.L. 2015-298 extends eligibility for North Carolina National Guard tuition assistance to eligible North Carolina National Guard members enrolled in a program granting graduate certificates. An identical change was also made in Sec. 66 of S.L. 2015-264.*

*This act became effective October 30, 2015.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** G.S. 116-209.54(b) makes available tuition assistance under the North Carolina National Guard Tuition Assistance Act of 1975 to eligible<sup>1</sup> 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.

S.L. 2015-298 also extends eligibility under G.S. 116-209.54(b) 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 became effective October 30, 2015.

**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, and Denise Adams, Legislative Analyst.*

<sup>1</sup> 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).

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