



HOUSE BILL 247: Limit Soldiers' Community College Tuition.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - Community Colleges. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations	Date:	March 21, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Hanes, Horn, Floyd, Blackwell	Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 247 would waive the difference in cost between the out-of-state tuition rate for a community college and the amount of tuition assistance available from the federal government for active duty members of the Armed Forces if certain conditions are met.

CURRENT LAW: Any active duty member of the Armed Forces who qualifies for admission to constituent institution of The University of North Carolina or a North Carolina community college but does not qualify as a resident for in-State tuition, is eligible to pay in-State tuition while the member is stationed in North Carolina on active military duty. If the member is reassigned outside of the State, the member continues to be eligible for in-State tuition as long as the member is continuously enrolled in the degree or other program in which the member was enrolled at the time the member is reassigned.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 247 would provide that if the amount of the out-of-state tuition rate for a community college exceeds the amount of federal tuition assistance for active duty members of the Armed Forces, the cost difference would be waived if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The member was enrolled in a degree or other program at a North Carolina community college and charged the in-State tuition rate at the time of deployment or assignment.
2. The member was not able to remain continuously enrolled in the degree or other program at the North Carolina community college due to deployment or reassignment.
3. The member re-enrolls in the degree or other program at the North Carolina community college in which the member was enrolled at the time the member was deployed or reassigned within 18 months of deployment or reassignment.
4. The member does not otherwise qualify for the in-State tuition rate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective July 1, 2017 and would apply beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year.

BACKGROUND: Currently the federal tuition assistance through the Department of Defense for active duty members of the Armed Forces is up \$250 per semester credit hour. The current out-of-State tuition cost per credit hour at North Carolina community colleges \$268.

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