



# HOUSE BILL 486: National Guard Tuition Assistance Program.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b> House Education - Community Colleges	<b>Date:</b> April 19, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b> Reps. G. Martin, Szoka	<b>Prepared by:</b> Drupti Chauhan
<b>Analysis of:</b> First Edition	Committee Counsel

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 486 would extend eligibility for North Carolina National Guard tuition assistance to eligible North Carolina National Guard members enrolled in a professional certification program recommended by the Director of the North Carolina National Guard Education and Employment Center and approved by the North Carolina National Guard Education Services Officer.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S400, as introduced by Sens. Britt, J. Jackson, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

**CURRENT LAW:** Under G.S. 116-209.54, tuition assistance is available under the North Carolina National Guard Tuition Assistance Act of 1975 to active members of the North Carolina National Guard who are enrolled or will enroll in any of the following: (i) a proprietary school; (ii) an in-State private educational institution which does not operate for profit; or (iii) a State educational institution. The tuition benefit is applicable to students in the following categories:

- Students completion of their secondary school education at a community college or technical institute;
- Students seeking trade or vocational training or education;
- Students seeking a two-year associate degree;
- Students seeking a four-year baccalaureate degree;
- Students seeking a graduate degree; or
- Students enrolled in a program granting a graduate certificate.

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.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 486 would extend eligibility for tuition assistance to North Carolina National Guard members who are enrolled in a professional certification program recommended by the Director of the North Carolina National Guard Education and Employment Center and approved by the North Carolina National Guard Education Services Officer.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would become effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2017 fall academic semester.

**BACKGROUND:** The North Carolina National Guard Tuition Assistance Program is administered by the State Education Assistance Authority.

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