



HOUSE BILL 69: Military and Veterans Educational Promise Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House Homeland Security and Military and Veterans Affairs. If favorable, re-refer to Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
Date: March 11, 2025

Introduced by: Reps. Campbell, Chesser, Hastings, Pittman
Prepared by: Drupti Chauhan
Analysis of: Second Edition
Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 69 would do the following: (i) direct constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina to allow deferment for military service; (ii) prohibit the constituent institutions from denying admissions to applicants intending to serve in the military or are currently serving in the military; and (iii) provide in-State tuition to certain honorably discharged veterans.*

PART I: Nondiscriminatory Admissions Evaluations and Military Deferment

CURRENT LAW: There are no Statewide statutes governing the evaluations of applications from individuals serving in the military or intending to serve in the military or enrollment deferments for military service.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 of House Bill 69 would create a new Part 8A in Chapter 116 (Higher Education) of the General Statutes governing military admissions and deferment.

Nondiscriminatory Evaluations of Applicants: HB 69 would mandate that constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina cannot deny admissions to any applicant solely on the basis of the applicant's indication that the applicant is serving in the uniformed service or that the applicant intends to serve in the uniformed service.

Deferment: HB 69 would also require the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina to adopt a policy requiring constituent institutions to provide for enrollment deferment for members of the uniformed service and spouses of members of the uniformed services if the deferment is requested at least 30 days prior to enrollment in a constituent institution.

Members and spouses of members of the reserve Armed Forces must be granted deferments of at least 2 years after the entry into the reserve Armed Forces.

All other members and spouses of members of the uniformed services must be granted deferments of at least 5 years after entry into the uniformed services.

BACKGROUND:

Application Evaluation: Policy 700.7.1 of The University of North Carolina's Policy Manual is the Policy on Military Student Success. It states that "The University of North Carolina System is committed to the success of military-affiliated students". This includes "students who are U.S. military service members (including National Guard and Reserve members), veterans, spouses of service members or veterans or dependent family members of service members or veterans". Furthermore, the policy states that "The University of North Carolina System and its constituent institutions are committed to equality of

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opportunity. Each constituent institution shall administer nondiscriminatory admissions policies by fairly evaluating the records of applicants."

Deferment: Section G of Regulation 700.7.1 of The University of North Carolina's Policy Manual directs constituent institutions to "allow admitted military-affiliated students to defer admissions if they are called to duty before the start of a term.". The regulation further states that "constituent institutions should consider, in cases of a national emergency or crisis, allowing a deferral of enrollment for students who enlist in the United States Armed Forces prior to enrolling.". Constituent institutions must have a process by which the advance notice of the call to duty can be given as well as the intent to return. They must also publish the details of the process on the constituent institution's catalogue and website and include provisions on providing refunds for any deposits paid.

PART II: In-State Tuition for Honorably Discharged Veterans

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 116-143.3A provides that veterans and dependents of veterans who are "covered individuals" under 38 USC 3679(c) are eligible for in-State tuition without having satisfied the 12 month residency requirement if the following are met: (i) the individual's abode is North Carolina; (ii) the individual provides the institution of higher education at which the individual intends to enroll a letter of intent to establish residence in North Carolina; and (iii) the individual meets the federal definition of "covered individuals" under 38 USC 3679(c).

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 2 of HB 69 would provide in-State tuition for qualifying veterans who meet the following criteria:

- Served active duty for not less than 90 days in the Armed Forces.
- Received an Honorable Discharge.
- Meets one of the following criteria: (i) graduated from a North Carolina high school on or after January 1, 2004; (ii) served active duty in the Armed Forces with a permanent duty station in North Carolina for at least 90 continuous days; and (iii) was awarded a Purple Heart.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 69 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.