MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD TUITION ASSISTANCE ACT

Act 259 of 2014

AN ACT to provide for tuition assistance at certain educational institutions for Michigan National Guard members and certain other individuals; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities.

History: 2014, Act 259, Imd. Eff. July 1, 2014 ;-- Am. 2023, Act 33, Imd. Eff. May 22, 2023

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

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32.431 Short title.

Sec. 1.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Michigan national guard tuition assistance act".

History: 2014, Act 259, Imd. Eff. July 1, 2014

32.432 Definitions.

Sec. 2.

As used in this act:

(a) "Active service" means that term as defined in section 105 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.505.

(b) "Adjutant general" means the adjutant general of this state.

(c) "Course of study" means an individual class, or group of classes, in which an eligible person is enrolled for the purpose of obtaining a not-yet-completed training program, obtaining a not-yet-completed certificate program, or obtaining a not-yet-completed associate, bachelor's, or master's degree.

(d) "Eligible educational institution" means a public or private college, university, vocational school, technical school, or trade school located in this state.

(e) "Eligible person" means a member of the Michigan national guard who meets all of the following conditions:

(i) Is in active service.

(ii) Is not absent without leave or under charges described in the Michigan code of military justice of 1980, 1980 PA 523, MCL 32.1001 to 32.1148.

(iii) Any other criteria determined by the adjutant general consistent with Michigan national guard recruiting and retention requirements.

(f) "Fund" means the Michigan national guard tuition assistance fund created in section 4.

(g) "Tuition" means the cost of a course of study at an eligible educational institution, including the cost of instructional fees, laboratory fees, computer fees, and other fees directly related to that eligible person's specific course of study at that eligible educational institution. Tuition does not include the cost of books and study materials.

(h) "Tuition assistance program" means the Michigan national guard tuition assistance program created in section 3.

History: 2014, Act 259, Imd. Eff. July 1, 2014

32.433 Michigan National Guard tuition assistance program.

Sec. 3.

(1) The Michigan National Guard tuition assistance program is created within the department of military and veterans affairs.

(2) The adjutant general shall administer the tuition assistance program and prescribe forms and procedures to effectively carry out the tuition assistance program.

(3) An eligible person may apply for tuition assistance from the tuition assistance program before enrolling in an eligible educational institution. The adjutant general shall approve the application if the applicant is an eligible person and if there is sufficient money in the fund to cover the amount of tuition assistance determined to be available under this subsection by the adjutant general in that academic year. The adjutant general shall determine the amount of tuition assistance that may be provided under this subsection in any academic year. The amount of tuition assistance determined by the adjutant general under this subsection applies to all eligible persons.

(4) If an eligible person has enrolled in an eligible educational institution and has not applied for and received tuition assistance from the tuition assistance program, the eligible person may apply for tuition assistance for tuition paid to the eligible educational institution in that current academic year. The adjutant general shall approve the application if the applicant is an eligible person and if there is sufficient money in the Michigan National Guard member benefits fund created in the Michigan National Guard member benefits fund act to cover the amount of tuition assistance determined to be available under this subsection by the adjutant general in that academic year. The adjutant general shall determine the amount of tuition assistance that may be provided under this subsection in any academic year. The amount of tuition assistance determined by the adjutant general under this subsection applies to all eligible persons.

(5) The tuition assistance program applies to any course of study that is intended to culminate in vocational or technical training, a certificate, or the eligible person's first associate degree, bachelor's degree, or master's degree.

(6) The adjutant general may make a tuition assistance distribution under this section to either the eligible person or the eligible education institution, and may determine when the distribution is made.

(7) Upon completion of a course of study, an eligible person who successfully applied for tuition assistance under subsection (3) or (4) must provide evidence of attendance and completion of the course of study with a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, as applicable, in that current semester, in a manner prescribed by the adjutant general.

(8) If an eligible person who received tuition assistance under subsection (3) or who received reimbursement for the cost of tuition under subsection (4) did not complete the course of study for which it was granted, that eligible person must reimburse the fund in an amount and in a manner prescribed by the adjutant general unless the eligible person was deployed in a state or federal status that resulted in the eligible person's inability to complete the course of study. In that case, the matter must be determined by the adjutant general.

(9) The adjutant general may establish a policy that allows 1 or more of the following individuals who are family members of an eligible person to utilize the eligible person's tuition assistance established under this act, in a manner prescribed by the adjutant general and consistent with the requirements of this act that are applicable to the eligible person:

(a) A lawfully married spouse.

(b) A dependent child, stepchild, or legally adopted child who has graduated high school or obtained a high school diploma equivalent certificate, or who has turned 18 years of age, and who must use the eligible person's tuition assistance before turning 26 years of age.

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History: 2014, Act 259, Imd. Eff. July 1, 2014 ;-- Am. 2016, Act 531, Eff. Apr. 9, 2017 ;-- Am. 2023, Act 33, Imd. Eff. May 22, 2023 ;-- Am. 2025, Act 38, Imd. Eff. Dec. 9, 2025

32.434 Michigan National Guard tuition assistance fund.

Sec. 4.

(1) The Michigan National Guard tuition assistance fund is created within the state treasury.

(2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund interest and earnings

from the fund.

(3) The balance of money in the fund must not exceed $15,000,000.00. Any balance of money in the fund in excess of $15,000,000.00 lapses to the general fund. Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year remains in the fund and, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, does not lapse to the general fund. The unencumbered balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 must be transferred to the Michigan National Guard member benefits fund created in the Michigan National Guard member benefits fund act.

(4) The department of military and veterans affairs is the administrator of the fund for auditing purposes.

(5) The adjutant general shall expend money from the fund, on appropriation, to provide tuition assistance to an eligible person, or other individual described in section 3(9), for the cost of tuition to an eligible educational institution under section 3(3) or to reimburse an eligible person, or other individual described in section 3(9), for the cost of tuition paid to an eligible educational institution under section 3(4) for a course of study completed by the eligible person, or other individual described in section 3(9).

History: 2014, Act 259, Imd. Eff. July 1, 2014 ;-- Am. 2023, Act 33, Imd. Eff. May 22, 2023 ;-- Am. 2025, Act 38, Imd. Eff. Dec. 9, 2025

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