

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2502**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Julian Cyr*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the Massachusetts National Guard Family Education Program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>1/23/2020</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>1/23/2020</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>1/23/2020</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/23/2020</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/23/2020</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>1/23/2020</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>1/23/2020</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/23/2020</i>
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>1/27/2020</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>1/28/2020</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2020</i>

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By Mr. Cyr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2502) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Julian Cyr, Diana DiZoglio, David T. Vieira, Susan Williams Gifford and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the Massachusetts National Guard Family Education Program. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act relative to the Massachusetts National Guard Family Education Program.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 33 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 137 the following section:-

3 Section 137A. The Massachusetts National Guard family education program (NGFEP)  
4 shall be an extension of the National Guard Education Assistance Program as outlined in Section  
5 137, to include dependents of Massachusetts Guard members when requirements are met as  
6 specified.

7 National Guard members may split their state sponsored 130 credit tuition and fee waiver  
8 between dependents. Dependents are defined as immediate family members enrolled in the  
9 Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

10 The program shall be administered by the Military Division which will maintain a record  
11 of tuition and fee credit total, not to exceed 130 total credits per service member. The Military

12 Division may issue a certificate of exemption from the matriculation fee and tuition to specified  
13 dependents of the Massachusetts Army or Air National Guard members enrolled at any state  
14 institution, in a program the cost of which is borne by the commonwealth, and who are qualified  
15 as provided in this section. Identified dependents must use their specified credit allotment within  
16 ten years of service member separation or by the age of 26, whichever date is later.

17 To receive benefits from the program, the member must extend their current service  
18 obligation or reenlist for NGFEP benefits after completing their initial 6-year military service  
19 obligation in the Massachusetts National Guard. In order to be eligible, the Massachusetts  
20 National Guard member must be eligible to serve an additional 6 year enlistment from the date of  
21 extension or reenlistment, be in good standing and a satisfactory participant in the Massachusetts  
22 National Guard, and have not previously used their 130 semester credit state tuition waiver.

23 No combination of member and/or dependents shall receive benefits in excess of 130  
24 semester credit hours total.

25 Enrollment of a dependent in a course at any such institution shall be dependent on the  
26 availability of seats. For the purposes of this section, "availability of seats" is defined as  
27 vacancies that exist in a course after the enrollment of all tuition-paying students, and all students  
28 who are enrolled under any scholarship or tuition waiver provisions.