

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1712

## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHNELTING.

3308H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 173.239, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to National Guard member educational assistance grants.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 173.239, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.239, to read as follows:

173.239. 1. **Except as provided in subsection 8 of this section**, any member of the Missouri National Guard who possesses the qualifications set forth in this section may be awarded an educational assistance grant to an approved public institution or an approved private institution, as those terms are defined in either section 173.205 or section 173.778, of his or her choice while he or she is a member of the Missouri National Guard. Funding for educational assistance pursuant to this section may be requested annually in the budget of the Missouri National Guard. Educational assistance provided pursuant to this section shall not exceed funds appropriated for that purpose.

2. Educational assistance provided under this section shall not exceed the least of the following:

(1) The actual tuition, as defined in section 173.260, charged at an approved institution where the individual is enrolled or accepted for enrollment; or

(2) The amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri for attendance;

(3) The grants provided under this section may be prorated subject to appropriations in an amount no less than fifty percent of the limits set forth in this section.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17           3. A member of the Missouri National Guard seeking educational assistance pursuant  
18 to this section shall provide a certificate of satisfactory service of his or her Missouri National  
19 Guard duties from his or her commanding officer and shall possess all other necessary  
20 entrance requirements of the school of his or her choice and shall maintain a cumulative grade  
21 point average (GPA) of at least two point five on a four point scale, or the equivalent on  
22 another scale approved by the program administrator, while attending the approved public or  
23 private institution.

24           4. If the grade point average of a member who is receiving educational assistance  
25 pursuant to this section falls below two point five on a four point scale, or the equivalent on  
26 another scale, such member shall retain the educational assistance and shall be placed on  
27 probation under the educational assistance program. Failure to achieve a current grade point  
28 average of at least two point five on a four point scale or the equivalent on another scale for  
29 future semesters or equivalent academic terms shall result in termination of the scholarship  
30 effective as of the next academic term. The member shall be removed from probation status  
31 upon achieving a cumulative grade point average of two point five on a four point scale or the  
32 equivalent on another scale.

33           5. If a recipient of educational assistance pursuant to this section ceases to maintain  
34 their active military affiliation while enrolled in an academic semester or term for any reason  
35 except death, disability, or medical disqualification the educational assistance shall be  
36 terminated and the recipient shall repay any amounts awarded for the academic semester or  
37 term.

38           6. Applicants for educational assistance pursuant to this section shall meet the  
39 qualifications established by [~~section 173.215, except the provisions of subdivisions (2) and~~  
40 ~~(4) of subsection 1 of section 173.215,]~~ **subdivisions (1), (3), and (4) of subsection 1 of**  
41 **section 173.1104** and shall be qualified, full-time or part-time students.

42           7. The educational assistance program established pursuant to this section shall be  
43 administered by the office of the adjutant general of the Missouri National Guard. The  
44 Missouri National Guard shall establish guidelines for equitable administrative distribution of  
45 educational assistance.

46           **8. (1) For the 2025-26 academic year and all subsequent academic years, a**  
47 **member of the Missouri National Guard who is awarded an educational assistance**  
48 **grant under this section may use the grant for tuition costs at any public, private, or**  
49 **virtual postsecondary educational institution in the United States that:**

50           **(a) Provides a postsecondary course of instruction at least six months in length**  
51 **leading to or directly creditable toward a certificate or degree;**

52           **(b) Meets the standards for accreditation as determined by either the Higher**  
53 **Learning Commission or by other accrediting bodies recognized by the United States**  
54 **Department of Education; and**

55           **(c) Does not discriminate in the hiring of administrators, faculty, and staff or in**  
56 **the admission of students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and**  
57 **is otherwise in compliance with the federal Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 and**  
58 **executive orders issued under such federal acts.**

59           **(2) All other requirements in this section for receiving an educational assistance**  
60 **grant, except the requirement that the member enroll at an educational institution in**  
61 **this state, shall apply to a member of the Missouri National Guard who uses the grant**  
62 **for tuition at a public, private, or virtual postsecondary educational institution outside**  
63 **this state.**

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