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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 64  
135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. DeMora and Wilson

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### SUMMARY

- Expands the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program to include a \$750 per eligibility unit award for recipients enrolled in graduate level courses.
- Creates an incentive under which individuals who extend their contract or enlistment by three years are awarded an additional 32 eligibility units under the scholarship.
- Clarifies that individuals who have enlisted, re-enlisted, extended enlistment, or who have accepted a warrant, commission, or appointment in the Ohio National Guard are eligible for the scholarship.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Coursework beyond a bachelor's degree

The bill expands the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program to include individuals pursuing a graduate degree.<sup>1</sup> Under the bill, approved applicants enrolled in graduate courses at a state or private institution of higher education will receive \$750 per eligibility unit used each term or semester.<sup>2</sup>

Further, under the bill, a student who completes an undergraduate degree program without accumulating 96 eligibility units and who remains a current member in good standing of the Ohio National Guard may continue to apply for scholarships to be used for any of the eligible programs until the individual reaches 96 eligibility units.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5919.34(A)(2)(b).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 5919.34(D)(1)(b).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 5919.34(E)(3).

Under current law, the scholarship is available only to individuals who are actively enrolled as a full-time or part-time student for at least three credit hours per semester or quarter in a degree-granting program up to a bachelor's degree. The permitted programs currently include:<sup>4</sup>

1. A two-year or four-year degree-granting program at a state or private institution of higher education;
2. A diploma-granting program at a state or private institution of higher education that is a school of nursing; and
3. A credential-certifying program, licensing program, trade certification program, or apprenticeship program for an in-demand occupation, as identified by the Adjutant General and Chancellor of Higher Education in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

Under law unchanged by the bill, individuals who are enrolled in undergraduate courses at private nonprofit colleges and universities receive a scholarship amount equal to 100% of the average tuition charge of all state universities. Individuals who attend state institutions of higher education receive 100% of their institution's tuition charges, and individuals who attend an institution registered with the state board of career colleges and schools receive the lesser of 100% of the institution's tuition or an amount equal to 100% of the average tuition charges of all state universities.<sup>5</sup>

## **Extension incentive**

The bill provides an incentive for scholarship recipients who extend their contract or enlistment for an additional three years. Recipients who do so are eligible for an additional 32 eligibility units under the scholarship to be used toward any eligible program. Recipients who participate in this incentive may accumulate a maximum of 128 eligibility units.<sup>6</sup>

Generally, a recipient of the Ohio National Guard Scholarship may continue to apply for the scholarship until the recipient has accumulated 96 eligibility units.<sup>7</sup> The number of semesters or quarters that a recipient may continue to apply for the scholarship is calculated by converting credit hours to eligibility units based on the number of credit hours the individual is enrolled in each term.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> R.C. 5919.34(A)(2)(b).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 5919.34(D)(1)(a).

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 5919.34(E)(2).

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 5919.34(A)(2)(c).

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 5919.34(E)(1).

## Eligibility clarification

The bill clarifies that in addition to individuals who have enlisted, re-enlisted, or extended enlistment in the National Guard, individuals who have accepted a warrant, commission, or appointment in the Ohio National Guard are also eligible for the Ohio National Guard Scholarship.<sup>9</sup>

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### HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-21-23

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<sup>9</sup> R.C. 5919.34(A)(2)(a).