

1                           **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**  
2                           April 22, 2025  
3                           **AS AMENDED**

4                           ENGROSSED HOUSE  
5                           BILL NO. 2257

6                           By: Miller of the House

7                           and

8                           Stanley of the Senate

9                           **[ higher education - National Guard Educational  
10                           Assistance - fees - cap - eligibility - regulations -  
11                           rules - effective date -  
12                           emergency ]**

13                          BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14                          SECTION 1.       AMENDATORY       Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2022

15                          (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3231), is amended to read as follows:

16                          Section 3231. A. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
17                          the "Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Act".

18                          B. As used in this act:

19                          1. "Oklahoma educational institution" means an institution of  
20                          higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher  
21                          Education;

22                          2. "Eligible Guard member" means a current member of the  
23                          Oklahoma National Guard in good standing who has a high school  
24                          diploma or who has completed General Educational Development (GED)

1 requirements and who has secured admission to and enrolled in an  
2 Oklahoma educational institution;

3       3. "Graduate program" means a program offered by an Oklahoma  
4 educational institution that leads to the award of a master's  
5 degree;

6       4. "Program" means the Oklahoma National Guard Educational  
7 Assistance Program established pursuant to the provisions of this  
8 section; and

9       5. "Undergraduate program" means a program offered by an  
10 Oklahoma educational institution that leads to the award of an  
11 associate's degree or a baccalaureate degree.

12      C. There is hereby created the Oklahoma National Guard  
13 Educational Assistance Program to provide assistance to eligible  
14 Guard members who enroll in an Oklahoma educational institution.  
15 Subject to the availability of funds, the amount of assistance shall  
16 be equivalent to the amount of resident tuition, and approved  
17 mandatory fees, and program fees, academic service fees, and any  
18 other fees for courses in which the eligible Guard member is  
19 enrolled, not to exceed a maximum of eighteen (18) credit hours each  
20 semester. The amount of mandatory fees, program fees, academic  
21 service fees, and any other fees shall be jointly reviewed and  
22 approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the  
23 Military Department of the State of Oklahoma before a determination  
24 to pay the fees is made.

1       1. The amount of assistance provided to an eligible Guard  
2 member enrolled in an undergraduate program shall not exceed a  
3 maximum of one hundred twenty (120) credit hours in pursuit of an  
4 associate's degree and/or a baccalaureate degree.

5       2. Subject to the assistance for eligible Guard members  
6 enrolled in undergraduate programs being fully funded, assistance  
7 shall be provided to an eligible Guard member with a baccalaureate  
8 degree enrolled in a graduate program. The amount of assistance  
9 provided to an eligible Guard member enrolled in a graduate program  
10 shall not exceed a maximum of forty (40) credit hours in pursuit of  
11 a master's degree.

12       3. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be  
13 granted without any limitation other than the amount of funds  
14 available for the Program and the number of eligible Guard members  
15 who apply, subject to any cap established by the Military  
16 Department.

17       4. Assistance allowed by this section shall not be allowed for  
18 courses taken in excess of the requirements for completion of an  
19 undergraduate program or a graduate program, whichever is applicable  
20 for the eligible Guard member.

21       D. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be  
22 allocated to the Oklahoma educational institution from the Oklahoma  
23 National Guard Educational Assistance Revolving Fund created  
24 pursuant to Section 2 3232 of this act title.

1       E. To be eligible to apply for the Program, an eligible Guard  
2 member shall:

3           1. Have at least one (1) year remaining on his or her  
4 enlistment contract at the beginning of any semester for which the  
5 member applies for assistance pursuant to this section;

6           2. Agree in writing to complete his or her current service  
7 obligation in the Oklahoma National Guard; and

8           3. Agree in writing to serve actively in good standing with the  
9 Oklahoma National Guard for not less than twenty-four (24) months  
10 after completion of the last semester for which the member receives  
11 assistance pursuant to this section.

12       F. To retain eligibility for the Program, an eligible Guard  
13 member shall:

14           1. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic  
15 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma educational  
16 institution in which the member is enrolled;

17           2. Maintain the requirements for retention and degree  
18 completion as established by the Oklahoma educational institution in  
19 which the member is enrolled;

20           3. Maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0  
21 scale; and

22           4. Maintain satisfactory participation in the Oklahoma National  
23 Guard; and

1       5. Possess a Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) or Air Force  
2 Specialty Code (AFSC) after his or her first semester.

3           G. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to the  
4 provisions of this section shall submit an application on a form  
5 prescribed by the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma to  
6 the Educational Service Office of the Military Department prior to  
7 the semester for which assistance is sought. The Military  
8 Department may establish a cap on the number of eligible Guard  
9 members allowed to participate per semester per undergraduate or  
10 graduate program. The eligible Guard member's Commander or his or  
11 her designee shall confirm a member's standing and eligibility to  
12 the Oklahoma educational institution in which the student is  
13 enrolled.

14           H. The eligible Guard member's Commander may deny an  
15 application submitted by an eligible Guard member for continued  
16 Program assistance if he or she fails to comply with the provisions  
17 of paragraph 1, 2, ~~or~~ 3, 4, or 5 of subsection F of this section.

18           I. An eligible Guard member who has received Program assistance  
19 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply  
20 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section  
21 shall be required to repay an amount to be calculated as follows:

22           1. Determine the total amount of assistance provided pursuant  
23 to the provisions of this section;

1       2. Divide the amount determined in paragraph 1 of this  
2 subsection by twenty-four (24); and

3       3. Multiply the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this  
4 subsection by the number of months the member did not fulfill the  
5 requirements of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section.

6 Repayments shall be deposited into the Oklahoma National Guard  
7 Educational Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2  
8 3232 of this ~~act~~ title.

9       J. An eligible Guard member who has received Program assistance  
10 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply  
11 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section  
12 due to hardship circumstances may request a waiver from repayment.  
13 A waiver request shall be submitted in writing to the Adjutant  
14 General.

15       K. By July 1 annually, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher  
16 Education shall notify the Adjutant General of the amount of funding  
17 available in the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance  
18 Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2 3232 of this ~~act~~ title.

19       L. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall  
20 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act including  
21 deadlines for submission of applications required by subsection G of  
22 this section. The Military Department of the State of Oklahoma  
23 shall promulgate regulations pertaining to the application process  
24 and the determination of eligibility for the assistance program.

1      The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and Military  
2      Department shall coordinate the promulgation of rules and  
3      regulations to ensure compatibility. The Adjutant General may  
4      promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

5            SECTION 2. This act shall become effective **July 1, 2025.**

6            **SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation**  
7      **of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby**  
8      **declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and**  
9      **be in full force from and after its passage and approval.**

10     COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
April 22, 2025 - DO PASS AS AMENDED

11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24