

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 32

6 By: Stanley of the Senate

7 and

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10 Miller and **Manger** of the
11 House

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An Act relating to the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Act; amending Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2022 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3231), which relates to creation of the act; directing certain assistance to include program fees and any other fees for courses; directing the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma to jointly review certain fees; allowing the State Regents to determine if certain fees are ineligible for program assistance; authorizing the Department to establish certain cap; modifying retention eligibility; authorizing the Department to establish a cap on certain program participation; modifying reasons for which an application for assistance may be denied; directing the Department to promulgate certain regulations; directing the State Regents and the Department to coordinate certain promulgation; updating statutory references; updating statutory language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1.

AMENDATORY

Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2022

2 (70 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 3231), is amended to read as follows:

3 Section 3231. A. This act shall be known and may be cited as

4 the "Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Act".

5 B. As used in ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma National Guard Educational6 Assistance Act:7 1. "Oklahoma educational institution" means an institution of
8 higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher
9 Education;10 2. "Eligible Guard member" means a current member of the
11 Oklahoma National Guard in good standing who has a high school
12 diploma or who has completed General Educational Development (GED)
13 requirements and who has secured admission to and enrolled in an
14 Oklahoma educational institution;15 3. "Graduate program" means a program offered by an Oklahoma
16 educational institution that leads to the award of a master's
17 degree;18 4. "Program" means the Oklahoma National Guard Educational
19 Assistance Program established pursuant to the provisions of this
20 section; and21 5. "Undergraduate program" means a program offered by an
22 Oklahoma educational institution that leads to the award of an
23 associate's degree or a baccalaureate degree.

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1 C. There is hereby created the Oklahoma National Guard
2 Educational Assistance Program to provide assistance to eligible
3 Guard members who enroll in an Oklahoma educational institution.
4 Subject to the availability of funds and limitations established by
5 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the amount of
6 assistance shall be equivalent to the amount of resident tuition,
7 mandatory fees, and program fees, academic service fees, and any
8 other fees for courses in which the eligible Guard member is
9 enrolled, not to exceed a maximum of eighteen (18) credit hours each
10 semester. The mandatory fees, program fees, academic service fees,
11 and any other fees for courses shall be jointly reviewed by the
12 State Regents and the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma.
13 The State Regents may determine fees or fee amounts to be ineligible
14 for program assistance. If the State Regents make such a
15 determination, program assistance for those fees or fee amounts
16 shall not be provided to eligible Guard members participating in the
17 program.

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

22 2. Subject to the assistance for eligible Guard members
23 enrolled in undergraduate programs being fully funded, assistance
24 shall be provided to an eligible Guard member with a baccalaureate

1 degree enrolled in a graduate program. The amount of assistance
2 provided to an eligible Guard member enrolled in a graduate program
3 shall not exceed a maximum of forty (40) credit hours in pursuit of
4 a master's degree.

5 3. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
6 granted without any limitation other than the amount of funds
7 available for the ~~Program~~ program and the number of eligible Guard
8 members who apply, subject to any cap established by the Military
9 Department.

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

14 D. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
15 allocated to the Oklahoma educational institution from the Oklahoma
16 National Guard Educational Assistance Revolving Fund created
17 pursuant to Section 2 3232 of this ~~act~~ title.

18 E. To be eligible to apply for the ~~Program~~ program, an eligible
19 Guard member shall:

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

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

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

5 F. To retain eligibility for the ~~Program~~ program, an eligible
6 Guard member shall:

7 1. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic
8 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma educational
9 institution in which the member is enrolled;

10 2. Maintain the requirements for retention and degree
11 completion as established by the Oklahoma educational institution in
12 which the member is enrolled;

13 3. Maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0
14 scale; and

15 4. Maintain satisfactory participation in the Oklahoma National
16 Guard; and

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

19 G. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to the
20 provisions of this section shall submit an application on a form
21 prescribed by the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma to
22 the Educational Service Office of the Military Department prior to
23 the semester for which assistance is sought. The eligible Guard
24 member's Commander or his or her designee shall confirm a member's

1 standing and eligibility to the Oklahoma educational institution in
2 which the student is enrolled. The Military Department may
3 establish a cap on the number of eligible Guard members allowed to
4 participate per semester per undergraduate or graduate program.

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

10 I. An eligible Guard member who has received Program program
11 assistance pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails
12 to comply with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this
13 section shall be required to repay an amount to be calculated as
14 follows:

15 1. Determine the total amount of assistance provided pursuant
16 to the provisions of this section;

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

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

22 Repayments shall be deposited into the Oklahoma National Guard
23 Educational Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2
24 3232 of this act title.

1 J. An eligible Guard member who has received ~~Program~~ program
2 assistance pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails
3 to comply with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this
4 section due to hardship circumstances may request a waiver from
5 repayment. A waiver request shall be submitted in writing to the
6 Adjutant General.

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

11 L. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall
12 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of ~~this act~~ the
13 Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Act including
14 deadlines for submission of applications required by subsection G of
15 this section. The Military Department of the State of Oklahoma
16 shall promulgate regulations pertaining to the application process
17 and the determination of eligibility for the program. The State
18 Regents and the Department shall coordinate the promulgation of
19 rules and regulations, respectively. The Adjutant General may
20 promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of ~~this act~~ the
21 Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Act.

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

23 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
24 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby

1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OVERSIGHT, dated 04/16/2025 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.

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