

SHORT TITLE: Schools; enacting the Oklahoma National Guard
Educational Assistance Act; codification; effective date; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

SENATE BILL NO. 472

By: Wright of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED An Act relating to schools; enacting the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Act; providing short title; providing for waivers of certain fees and tuition for members of Oklahoma National Guard; providing for certain agreements; establishing certain requirements for eligibility and retention of eligibility; providing for retention of certain powers by Military Department; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2290 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2290.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Subject to the provisions of this act, the general enrollment fees of any member of the Oklahoma National Guard who enrolls in an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or the tuition of any Oklahoma National Guard member who enrolls in a public postsecondary vocational-technical program shall be waived.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2290.2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The educational benefits prescribed in this act shall not be available to:

1. Members who have a baccalaureate degree; or

2. Members entitled to any equivalent federal educational benefits earned by membership in the Oklahoma National Guard, except that this paragraph shall not operate to prevent members who are receiving assistance from the federal Education Assistance Program for Members of the Selected Reserve from receiving benefits under this act.

B. The educational benefits prescribed in this act shall be available to members of the Oklahoma National Guard for a period of ten (10) years from the date of initial membership.

C. Fee and tuition waivers allowed by this act shall not be allowed for courses or units repeated or taken in excess of the requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program. Eligible guard members enrolled in cooperative programs pursuant to agreements between area vocational-technical schools and institutions of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall receive waivers for both vocational-technical and college work in which enrolled pursuant to such cooperative program.

D. All non-prior-service members shall have completed basic military training, military occupational specialty training, or skill-level training prior to being eligible for general enrollment fee or tuition waivers.

E. Any member who receives a waiver of general enrollment fees or tuition under this act shall agree in writing to serve in the Oklahoma National Guard for three (3) years after completion of the courses for which the waiver was granted. Any member who receives a fee or tuition waiver may be asked to reimburse the State of

Oklahoma if the member leaves the Oklahoma National Guard during the three-year period.

F. The Military Department shall retain the responsibility and authority to establish any limitations and controls it deems necessary to ensure maximum fiscal efficiency and productivity of the fee and tuition waiver program prescribed in this act.

G. It shall be the responsibility of the guard member to obtain a certificate from the commanding officer attesting to the member's satisfactory guard performance and to present the certificate to the educational institution in order to obtain a fee or tuition waiver. The certificate shall be presented at the time of enrollment for the courses for which a fee or tuition waiver is requested. The certificate shall include a signed agreement by the member to serve in the Oklahoma National Guard for a minimum of three (3) years from the date of completion of the courses for which the waiver is granted.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

45-1-0661

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