

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 5343**

Chapter 271, Laws of 2013

63rd Legislature  
2013 Regular Session

HIGHER EDUCATION--STUDENTS--MILITARY SERVICE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/28/13

Passed by the Senate February 22, 2013  
YEAS 48 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 15, 2013  
YEAS 95 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved May 16, 2013, 2:17 p.m.

JAY INSLEE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5343** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN

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**Secretary**

FILED

May 17, 2013

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SENATE BILL 5343**

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Passed Legislature - 2013 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      63rd Legislature                      2013 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Bailey, Rivers, Hobbs, Kline, Mullet, Fain, Frockt, Billig, Shin, Tom, Conway, and Roach; by request of Washington State Bar Association

Read first time 01/28/13. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to the rights of higher education students involved  
2 in military service; and amending RCW 28B.10.270.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.270 and 2004 c 161 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) A member of the Washington national guard or any other military  
7 reserve component who is a student at an institution of higher  
8 education and who is ordered for a period exceeding thirty days to  
9 either active state service, as defined in RCW 38.04.010, or to federal  
10 active military service has the following rights:

11            (a) With regard to courses in which the person is enrolled, the  
12 person may:

13            (i) Withdraw from one or more courses for which tuition and fees  
14 have been paid that are attributable to the courses. The tuition and  
15 fees must be credited to the person's account at the institution. Any  
16 refunds are subject to the requirements of the state or federal  
17 financial aid programs of origination. In such a case, the student  
18 shall not receive credit for the courses and shall not receive a

1 failing grade, an incomplete, or other negative annotation on the  
2 student's record, and the student's grade point average shall not be  
3 altered or affected in any manner because of action under this item;

4 (ii) Be given a grade of incomplete and be allowed to complete the  
5 course upon release from active duty under the institution's standard  
6 practice for completion of incompletes; or

7 (iii) Continue and complete the course for full credit. Class  
8 sessions the student misses due to performance of state or federal  
9 active military service must be counted as excused absences and must  
10 not be used in any way to adversely impact the student's grade or  
11 standing in the class. Any student who selects this option is not,  
12 however, automatically excused from completing assignments due during  
13 the period the student is performing state or federal active military  
14 service. A letter grade or a grade of pass must only be awarded if, in  
15 the opinion of the faculty member teaching the course, the student has  
16 completed sufficient work and has demonstrated sufficient progress  
17 toward meeting course requirements to justify the grade;

18 (b) To receive a refund of amounts paid for room, board, and fees  
19 attributable to the time period during which the student was serving in  
20 state or federal active military service and did not use the facilities  
21 or services for which the amounts were paid. Any refund of room,  
22 board, and fees is subject to the requirements of the state or federal  
23 financial aid programs of origination; and

24 (c) If the student chooses to withdraw, the student has the right  
25 to be readmitted and enrolled as a student at the institution, without  
26 penalty or redetermination of admission eligibility, within one year  
27 following release from the state or federal active military service.

28 (2)(a) A member of the Washington national guard or any other  
29 military reserve or guard component who is a student at an institution  
30 of higher education and who is ordered for a period of thirty days or  
31 less to either active or inactive state or federal service and as a  
32 result of that service or follow-up medical treatment for injury  
33 incurred during that service misses any class, test, examination,  
34 laboratory, or class day on which a written or oral assignment is due,  
35 or other event upon which a course grade or evaluation is based, is  
36 entitled to make up the class, test, examination, laboratory,  
37 presentation, or event without prejudice to the final course grade or

1 evaluation. The makeup must be scheduled after the member's return  
2 from service and after a reasonable time for the student to prepare for  
3 the test, examination, laboratory, presentation, or event.

4 (b) Class sessions a student misses due to performance of state or  
5 federal active or inactive military service must be counted as excused  
6 absences and may not be used in any way to adversely impact the  
7 student's grade or standing in class.

8 (c) If the faculty member teaching the course determines that the  
9 student has completed sufficient work and has demonstrated sufficient  
10 progress toward meeting course requirements to justify the grade  
11 without making up the class, test, examination, presentation, or other  
12 event, the grade may be awarded without the makeup, but the missed  
13 class, test, examination, laboratory, class day, presentation, or other  
14 event must not be used in any way to adversely impact the student's  
15 grade or standing in the class.

16 (3) The protections in this section may be invoked as follows:

17 (a) The person, or an appropriate officer from the military  
18 organization in which the person will be serving, must give written  
19 notice that the person is being, or has been, ordered to qualifying  
20 service; and

21 (b) Upon written request from the institution, the person shall  
22 provide written verification of service.

23 ~~((3))~~ (4) This section provides minimum protections for students.  
24 Nothing in this section prevents institutions of higher education from  
25 providing additional options or protections to students who are ordered  
26 to state or federal active military service.

Passed by the Senate February 22, 2013.

Passed by the House April 15, 2013.

Approved by the Governor May 16, 2013.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 17, 2013.