

HB 1943 - S AMD 808
By Senator Randall

ADOPTED 03/01/2024

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.103.010 and 2022 c 68 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (~~Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the~~) The
6 definitions in this section apply throughout this (~~section and RCW~~
7 ~~28B.103.020 and 28B.103.030~~) chapter unless the context clearly
8 requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Dependent" means a person enrolled as a dependent in the
10 defense enrollment eligibility reporting system.

11 (2) "Eligible student" means a member of the Washington national
12 guard (~~who attends an institution of higher education that is~~
13 located in this state and accredited by the Northwest Association of
14 Schools and Colleges, or an institution that is located in this state
15 that provides approved training under the Montgomery GI Bill, and
16 who) or the spouse or dependent of, and designated by, a member who
17 agrees to fulfill his or her service obligation and meets any
18 additional selection criteria adopted by the office and all of the
19 following participation requirements:

20 (a) (~~Enrolled~~) Is enrolled in courses or a program that lead to
21 a postsecondary degree or certificate at an institution of higher
22 education located in the state and accredited by the Northwest
23 Association of Schools and Colleges, or an institution that is
24 located in the state that provides approved training under the
25 Montgomery GI Bill;

26 (b) Is an active drilling member, or the spouse or dependent of,
27 and designated by, an active drilling member. The member must be in
28 good standing in the Washington national guard as specified in rules
29 adopted by the office for implementation of the (~~Washington national~~
30 ~~guard postsecondary education~~) grant;

31 (c) Has completed and submitted an application for student aid
32 approved by the office; and

1 (d) Is a resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012(~~(+and~~
2 ~~(e) Agrees to fulfill his or her service obligation)~~).

3 ~~((+2))~~ (3) "Forgiven" or "to forgive" or "forgiveness" means
4 either to render service in the Washington national guard in lieu of
5 monetary repayment, or to be relieved of the service obligation under
6 rules adopted by the office.

7 ~~((+3))~~ (4) "Grant" means the Washington national guard
8 postsecondary education grant as established in RCW 28B.103.020.

9 ~~((+4))~~ (5) "Maximum benefit" means the maximum grant a
10 Washington national guard member and the guard member's spouse and
11 dependents are eligible to receive.

12 (6) "Member" means a member of the Washington national guard who
13 has received, or whose spouse or dependent has received, a grant
14 under this chapter.

15 (7) "Office" means the office of student financial assistance
16 created in RCW 28B.76.090.

17 ~~((+5))~~ (8) "Participant" means an eligible student who has
18 received a ~~((Washington national guard postsecondary education))~~
19 grant under this chapter.

20 ~~((+6))~~ (9) "Service obligation" means ~~((serving))~~ an obligation
21 by the member to serve in the Washington national guard for a time
22 period of at least one year of service in the Washington national
23 guard for each year the ~~((student))~~ participant receives a
24 ~~((Washington national guard postsecondary education))~~ grant.

25 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.103.020 and 2022 c 68 s 2 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
28 Washington national guard postsecondary education grant program is
29 established. The program shall be administered by the office. In
30 administering the program, the powers and duties of the office shall
31 include, but need not be limited to:

32 (1) With the assistance of the Washington military department,
33 the selection of eligible students to receive the ~~((Washington~~
34 ~~national guard postsecondary education))~~ grant as follows:

35 (a) An eligible student may receive a grant under this section to
36 help pay for postsecondary education program costs as approved by the
37 office. Grants may not:

38 (i) Exceed the maximum Washington college grant as defined in RCW
39 28B.92.030, plus \$500 for books and supplies;

1 (ii) Exceed the ~~((student's))~~ participant's cost of attendance,
2 when combined with all other public and private grants, scholarships,
3 and waiver assistance the ~~((student))~~ participant receives; and

4 (iii) Result in reduction of a participant's federal or other
5 state financial aid.

6 (b) The Washington military department shall ensure that data
7 needed to identify eligible ~~((recipients))~~ students are promptly
8 transmitted to the office.

9 (c) The annual amount of each ~~((Washington national guard
10 postsecondary education))~~ grant may vary, but may not exceed the
11 annual cost of undergraduate tuition fees and services and activities
12 fees at the University of Washington, plus an allowance for books and
13 supplies.

14 (d) ~~((Washington national guard postsecondary education grant
15 eligibility))~~ The maximum benefit a single guard member, or a
16 combination of the guard member and the guard member's designated
17 spouse or dependents, may receive may not extend beyond ~~((five years
18 or one hundred twenty-five percent of the published length of the
19 program in which the student is enrolled))~~ six full-time years, or
20 the credit or clock-hour equivalent;

21 (2) The award of grants funded by federal and state funds,
22 private donations, or repayments from any participant who does not
23 complete the participant's service obligation;

24 (3) The adoption of necessary rules and policies, including
25 establishing a priority for eligible students attending an
26 institution of higher education located in this state that is
27 accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges;

28 (4) The adoption of participant selection criteria. The criteria
29 may include but need not be limited to requirements for: Satisfactory
30 academic progress, enrollment in courses or programs that lead to a
31 baccalaureate degree or an associate degree or a certificate, and
32 satisfactory participation as a member of the Washington national
33 guard;

34 (5) With the assistance of the Washington military department,
35 the notification of ~~((participants))~~ members of their additional
36 service obligation or required repayment of the ~~((Washington national
37 guard postsecondary education))~~ grant; and

38 (6) The collection of repayments from ~~((participants))~~ members
39 who do not meet the service obligations.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.103.030 and 2020 c 297 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) (~~Participants in the Washington national guard postsecondary~~
4 ~~education grant program~~) Members incur an obligation to repay the
5 grant, with interest, unless they serve in the Washington national
6 guard for one year for each year they or their spouse or dependent
7 received the grant, under rules adopted by the office.

8 (2) The office shall adopt rules addressing the terms for
9 repayment, including applicable interest rates, fees, (~~and~~)
10 deferments, and appeals, by a (~~participant~~) member who does not
11 render service as a member of the Washington national guard necessary
12 to satisfy his or her service obligation.

13 (3) The office is responsible for collection of repayments made
14 under this section. The office shall exercise due diligence in such
15 collection, maintaining all necessary records to ensure that maximum
16 repayments are made. Collection and servicing of repayments under
17 this section shall be pursued using the full extent of law, including
18 wage garnishment if necessary. The office is responsible to forgive
19 all or parts of such repayments under the criteria established in
20 this section, and shall maintain all necessary records of forgiven
21 payments.

22 (4) Receipts from the payment of principal or interest paid by or
23 on behalf of participants shall be deposited with the office and
24 shall be used to cover the costs of administration of the grant,
25 maintaining necessary records, and making collections under
26 subsection (3) of this section. The office shall maintain accurate
27 records of these costs, and all receipts beyond those necessary to
28 pay such costs shall be used to make grant awards to eligible
29 students.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.103
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 A guard member and the guard member's designated spouse and
33 dependents may simultaneously use the grant, subject to any rules
34 adopted by the office, and the limitation on the maximum benefit."

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1 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "program;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 28B.103.010,
3 28B.103.020, and 28B.103.030; and adding a new section to chapter
4 28B.103 RCW."

EFFECT: (1) Allows a guard member and their designated spouse and dependents to simultaneously use the national guard grant.

(2) Specifies that the maximum benefit per guard member, including any usage by the guard member's spouse and dependents, must not exceed 6 full-time years or the credit or clock hour equivalent.

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