

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 485

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Creates the Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program to cover the cost of mandatory fees for members attending La. public postsecondary education institutions

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 46 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised  
3 of R.S. 17:4101 through 4103, relative to scholarships; to create a scholarship  
4 program for members of the Louisiana National Guard; to provide for program  
5 administration by the Board of Regents; to provide for eligibility and award amounts;  
6 to provide for rules; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. The legislature finds that is necessary to properly recruit and compensate  
9 members and prospective members of the Louisiana National Guard for the important role  
10 they play in the safety and security of the state and nation. The state of Louisiana has  
11 increasingly called upon members of the Louisiana National Guard to help protect citizens  
12 during numerous all-hazards emergency operations. At all times, the members of the  
13 Louisiana National Guard have answered the state's call, selflessly walking into harm's way  
14 to save lives, protect property, and ease the suffering of our citizens. The purpose of the  
15 Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program is to recognize the tremendous  
16 impact that the individual members of the Louisiana National Guard have on the security and  
17 safety of the state of Louisiana and the nation.

18 Section 2. Chapter 46 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
19 comprised of R.S. 17:4101 through 4103, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

1                   CHAPTER 46. LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

2                           PATRIOT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

3           §4101. Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program; creation; eligibility

4                   A. The Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program is hereby  
5           created for the purpose of covering the cost of mandatory fees at public  
6           postsecondary education institutions.

7                   B. In order to qualify for the scholarship, a student shall be a member in  
8           good standing with the Louisiana National Guard, enrolled in a Louisiana public  
9           postsecondary education institution, and eligible for the tuition exemption provided  
10           for in R.S. 29:36.1.

11                   C. The scholarship shall be available for an eligible student for up to four  
12           academic years or until the receipt of a degree at the baccalaureate level, whichever  
13           occurs first. However, any student receiving a scholarship under the provisions of  
14           this Chapter who is mobilized or called to active duty is entitled to an extension of  
15           the time the scholarship may be claimed equal to the amount of academic time  
16           impacted by the time served on active duty.

17           §4102. Administration; scholarship amount; funding

18                   A. The administering agency for the scholarship program shall be the Board  
19           of Regents. The Louisiana National Guard shall assist the Board of Regents in the  
20           administration of the program.

21                   B.(1) Upon notice from the public postsecondary education institution and  
22           the Louisiana National Guard that the student qualifies for the scholarship for the  
23           ensuing academic period, the administering agency shall make payment of the  
24           scholarship funds, on behalf of the student, directly to the institution at which such  
25           mandatory fees are due. The amount of the scholarship for each eligible student  
26           shall be equal to the amount of mandatory fees charged to the student by the  
27           institution.

28                   (2) The payment of scholarships as provided in this Subsection shall be  
29           subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

- 1           §4103. Rules
- 2                   The administering agency shall adopt rules in accordance with the
- 3           Administrative Procedure Act for the implementation of the provisions of this
- 4           Chapter. When developing the rules, the administering agency shall consult with the
- 5           Louisiana National Guard.
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## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 485 Original

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Brass

**Abstract:** Creates the La. National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program to cover mandatory fees for members attending public postsecondary education institutions.

Present law (R.S. 29:36.1) provides for a tuition exemption program for members of the La. National Guard (LNG). Proposed law additionally creates and provides for the La. National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program to cover mandatory fees for members who meet the following criteria:

- (1) In good standing with the LNG.
- (2) Enrolled in a La. public postsecondary education institution.
- (3) Eligible for the aforementioned present law tuition exemption.

Proposed law:

- (1) Provides a scholarship duration of four academic years or until receipt of a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first; however, extends the duration for anyone mobilized or called to active duty.
- (2) Provides for administration by the Bd. of Regents, which shall adopt program rules in consultation with the LNG.
- (3) Requires the Bd. Regents, upon notice from the institution and the LNG that the student qualifies for the scholarship for the ensuing academic period, to make payment of the scholarship funds directly to the institution where the mandatory fees are due, subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

(Adds R.S. 17:4101-4103)