

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 485

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRASS, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BOYD, BROWN, CARRIER, CORMIER, COX, ECHOLS, EMERSON, FISHER, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GAROFALO, GEYMAN, HARRIS, HORTON, HUGHES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LYONS, DUSTIN MILLER, GREGORY MILLER, MOORE, CHARLES OWEN, PHELPS, PIERRE, SCHAMERHORN, SCHEXNAYDER, SELDERS, STAGNI, THOMPSON, AND WILLARD AND SENATORS ABRAHAM, FIELDS, JACKSON, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, AND TALBOT

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.

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

3                           CHAPTER 46. LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

4   PATRIOT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

5           §4101. Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program; creation; eligibility

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

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

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

19           §4102. Administration; scholarship amount; funding

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

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

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

3                   §4103. Rules

4                   The administering agency shall adopt rules in accordance with the  
5                   Administrative Procedure Act for the implementation of the provisions of this  
6                   Chapter. When developing the rules, the administering agency shall consult with the  
7                   Louisiana National Guard.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_