

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 25-0932.01 Alana Rosen x2606

**SENATE BILL 25-247**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bridges and Kirkmeyer**, Amabile, Carson, Catlin, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Kipp,  
Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Weissman

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bird and Taggart**, Sirota

---

**Senate Committees**  
Appropriations

**House Committees**  
Appropriations

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING TUITION WAIVERS FOR MEMBERS OF THE COLORADO**  
102              **NATIONAL GUARD, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING**  
103              **AN APPROPRIATION.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Joint Budget Committee.** The bill changes the tuition assistance program for eligible members of the Colorado National Guard (member) to a tuition waiver program (program). The bill allows a member, upon being accepted for enrollment at a designated institution of higher education (institution), to pursue studies that lead to a postgraduate

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
April 9, 2025

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 3, 2025

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 2, 2025

degree, a bachelor's degree, an associate degree, or a certificate of completion with all tuition waived. For a member, the tuition waiver must not exceed more than 65 credit hours at a designated 2-year institution of higher education and no more than 130 credit hours at a designated 4-year institution of higher education; except that the total credit hours for a member who attends both a 2-year institution and a 4-year institution must not exceed more than 145 credit hours. The department of military and veterans affairs (department) shall administer the program.

In order to qualify for the program, a member must:

- Be accepted by an institution;
- Be in good standing with the Colorado National Guard; and
- Complete a Colorado application for state financial aid or a free application for federal student aid.

Each institution shall determine if a member enrolled with the institution remains in satisfactory academic standing in accordance with the academic policies of the institution and is making progress toward the completion of the requirements of the education program in which the member is enrolled. If the institution finds that the member is not in satisfactory academic standing in accordance with the academic policies of the institution or is not making progress toward the completion of a degree, the member must reimburse the department for the amount of the tuition waived for that academic term.

The bill makes an appropriation.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-7.4-302, **amend**  
3 (1), (5), (6), (7), and (9)(a); and **repeal and reenact, with amendments,**  
4 (2) and (3) as follows:

5           **23-7.4-302. Tuition waiver for members of the National Guard**  
6 **- rules - fund - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.** (1) The  
7 general assembly recognizes its responsibility for the establishment and  
8 maintenance of a strong, well-trained, and high-spirited National Guard.  
9 The encouragement of membership in the guard through the granting of  
10 ~~reduced or~~ free tuition at certain institutions of postsecondary education  
11 simultaneously expresses a commitment to a part of this responsibility  
12 and supports existing institutions, carrying out a policy of maintaining

1 reasonable access to quality education as broadly in this state as possible.  
2 The general assembly hereby finds and declares that the establishment of  
3 a tuition ~~assistance~~ WAIVER program will encourage enlistments, enhance  
4 the knowledge and skills of the National Guard, and retain membership  
5 in the National Guard.

6 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
7 REQUIRES:

8 (a) "DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS:

9 (I) ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY;

10 (II) COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY;

11 (III) COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY - GLOBAL CAMPUS;

12 (IV) COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY - PUEBLO;

13 (V) COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY;

14 (VI) METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER;

15 (VII) FORT LEWIS COLLEGE;

16 (VIII) WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY;

17 (IX) UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO;

18 (X) UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER;

19 (XI) UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER;

20 (XII) UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS;

21 (XIII) UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER;

22 (XIV) COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES;

23 (XV) COMMUNITY COLLEGES THAT ARE GOVERNED BY THE STATE  
24 BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION;

25 (XVI) AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE; AND

26 (XVII) A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE.

27 (b) "MEMBER" MEANS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR OFFICER OF THE

1 COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD.

2 (3) (a) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS, A PERSON WHO IS A  
3 MEMBER OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD, UPON BEING ACCEPTED  
4 FOR ENROLLMENT AT A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION,  
5 MAY PURSUE STUDIES THAT LEAD TO A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE, A  
6 BACHELOR'S DEGREE, AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE, OR A CERTIFICATE OF  
7 COMPLETION WITH ALL TUITION WAIVED. FOR A MEMBER, THE TUITION  
8 WAIVER MUST NOT EXCEED MORE THAN SIXTY-FIVE CREDIT HOURS AT A  
9 DESIGNATED TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND NO  
10 MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THIRTY CREDIT HOURS AT A DESIGNATED  
11 FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; EXCEPT THAT THE TOTAL  
12 CREDIT HOURS FOR A MEMBER WHO ATTENDS BOTH A DESIGNATED  
13 TWO-YEAR AND A DESIGNATED FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
14 EDUCATION MUST NOT EXCEED MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE  
15 CREDIT HOURS. THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
16 SHALL ADMINISTER THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM.

17 (b) (I) TO PREVENT HARDSHIP TO A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF  
18 HIGHER EDUCATION, IF THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE MEMBER  
19 ENROLLMENT IN THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM, THE NUMBER OF  
20 MEMBERS ATTENDING WITH A TUITION WAIVER MUST NOT EXCEED THE  
21 GREATER OF:

22 (A) A TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT INCREASE IN MEMBER ENROLLMENT  
23 IN A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION COMPARED TO THE  
24 MEMBER CALCULATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF THIS  
25 SECTION; OR

26 (B) MORE THAN FIVE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS ENROLLED IN A  
27 DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION COMPARED TO THE

1 MEMBER CALCULATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF THIS  
2 SECTION.

3 (II) FOR EACH DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION,  
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL DETERMINE  
5 THE BASE MEMBER ENROLLMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(I)(A)  
6 OR (3)(b)(I)(B) OF THIS SECTION BY CALCULATING THE AVERAGE FALL  
7 SEMESTER MEMBER ENROLLMENT AT THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF  
8 HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE PREVIOUS THREE FALL SEMESTERS. THE  
9 DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, IN CONSULTATION  
10 WITH DESIGNATED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL ADOPT  
11 RULES TO DETERMINE HOW TO SELECT MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
12 TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM IF A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN MEMBER  
13 ENROLLMENT IN THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM OCCURS PURSUANT TO  
14 SUBSECTION (3)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION.

15 (III) THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
16 SHALL DETERMINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBER ENROLLMENT CAPS FOR  
17 EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE. THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
18 VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE STATE BOARD OF  
19 COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION FOR TUITION  
20 WAIVERS. THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND  
21 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FUNDS TO EACH  
22 COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN WHICH A MEMBER IS ENROLLED.

23 (IV) (A) THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
24 MAY REQUEST ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BASED ON  
25 CHANGES TO COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER ENROLLMENT AND  
26 CHANGES TO THE COST OF TUITION.

27 (B) IF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CALCULATED TUITION FOR

1 BASE MEMBER ENROLLMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF  
2 THIS SECTION, AND THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION IS LESS THAN  
3 TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS  
4 AFFAIRS MAY PRORATE FUNDING AND DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO EACH  
5 DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROPORTIONATELY.

6 (C) IF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CALCULATED TUITION FOR  
7 BASE MEMBER ENROLLMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF  
8 THIS SECTION, AND THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION IS MORE THAN  
9 TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT, THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM IS SUSPENDED  
10 AND THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL  
11 DISTRIBUTE THE REMAINING TUITION WAIVER FUNDS ON A FIRST-COME,  
12 FIRST-SERVE BASIS TO MEMBERS UNTIL THE TUITION WAIVER FUNDS ARE  
13 EXHAUSTED.

14 (c) THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL  
15 ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR MEMBERS WHO ATTEND POSTGRADUATE DEGREE  
16 PROGRAMS.

17 (d) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM  
18 AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION, A MEMBER MUST:

19 (I) BE ACCEPTED BY A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
20 EDUCATION;

21 (II) BE IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE COLORADO NATIONAL  
22 GUARD; AND

23 (III) COMPLETE A COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL  
24 AID OR A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

25 (5) ~~For each individual member of the Colorado National Guard~~  
26 ~~who is a continuing student and who is receiving tuition assistance as~~  
27 ~~provided in this section, the department of military and veterans affairs~~

1 ~~shall obtain certification from the designated institution of higher~~  
2 ~~education prior to the payment to the institution attesting to the member's~~  
3 ~~current satisfactory academic standing at the designated institution of~~  
4 ~~higher education, as determined by military regulations promulgated~~  
5 ~~pursuant to subsection (7) of this section, for each semester or quarter for~~  
6 ~~which tuition assistance is requested. Tuition assistance shall not be~~  
7 ~~granted without such certification.~~ EACH DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF  
8 HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL DETERMINE IF A MEMBER ENROLLED WITH THE  
9 DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION REMAINS IN  
10 SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC STANDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
11 ACADEMIC POLICIES OF THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
12 EDUCATION AND IS MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF THE  
13 REQUIREMENTS OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN WHICH THE MEMBER IS  
14 ENROLLED. IF THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FINDS  
15 THAT THE MEMBER IS NOT IN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC STANDING IN  
16 ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACADEMIC POLICIES OF THE DESIGNATED  
17 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR IS NOT MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD  
18 THE COMPLETION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN  
19 WHICH THE MEMBER IS ENROLLED, THE MEMBER MUST REIMBURSE THE  
20 DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS PURSUANT TO  
21 SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (6) Any member who leaves the Colorado National Guard in  
23 violation of the member's agreement under subsection (2) of this section  
24 during an academic term for which the member is receiving tuition  
25 assistance is required to repay to the department of military and veterans  
26 affairs the amount of tuition ~~assistance~~ WAIVER granted for that academic  
27 term and any and all collection fees incurred by the department of military

1 and veterans affairs. The repayment of tuition assistance ~~shall~~ MUST be  
2 credited to the Colorado National Guard tuition fund created in  
3 subsection (9) of this section.

4 (7) The department of military and veterans affairs shall  
5 ~~promulgate military regulations for the administration of tuition~~  
6 ~~assistance as provided in this section including, but not limited to, the~~  
7 ~~following:~~ ADOPT RULES TO CERTIFY MEMBER ELIGIBILITY AT THE  
8 REQUEST OF A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TO  
9 COMMUNICATE MEMBER ELIGIBILITY TO THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF  
10 HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TO ADMINISTER THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM  
11 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

12 (a) ~~Criteria for the eligibility of a member of the National Guard~~  
13 ~~for tuition assistance. In establishing this criteria, the department of~~  
14 ~~military and veterans affairs shall include, but not be limited to,~~  
15 ~~consideration of the following:~~

16 (I) ~~The member's past service and record, if any, in the National~~  
17 ~~Guard;~~

18 (II) ~~An evaluation of the member's commitment to future service~~  
19 ~~in the National Guard;~~

20 (III) ~~The member's military record, if any, including the member's~~  
21 ~~achievements and whether the member has been honorably discharged;~~

22 (IV) ~~The benefit to the National Guard by having such an~~  
23 ~~individual as a member;~~

24 (V) ~~Financial need, merit, or talent;~~

25 (b) ~~Procedures to be followed by designated institutions of higher~~  
26 ~~education in reporting the member's academic standing and in providing~~  
27 ~~timely billing to the department of military and veterans affairs;~~



1           ~~(c) A definition of satisfactory academic standing, including, but~~  
2 ~~not limited to, consideration of the member's cumulative grade point~~  
3 ~~average, credit hours completed, and progress toward a degree.~~

4           (9) (a) ~~There is created in the state treasury~~ The Colorado National  
5 Guard tuition fund ~~which~~ IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY AND is  
6 administered by the department of military and veterans affairs. ~~and~~  
7 ~~which consists of all~~ THE TUITION FUND CONSISTS OF money that ~~may be~~  
8 IS appropriated ~~thereto~~ by the general assembly or that is otherwise ~~made~~  
9 available to it by the general assembly. Money "otherwise made  
10 available" includes any repayment of tuition ~~assistance~~ WAIVERS made  
11 pursuant to subsection (6) of this section. The money in the fund is  
12 continuously appropriated for the payment of tuition ~~assistance~~ WAIVERS  
13 as ~~provided~~ DESCRIBED in this section. Any money not expended at the  
14 end of the fiscal year remains in the fund and ~~shall not be~~ IS NOT  
15 transferred to or ~~revert~~ REVERTED to the general fund of the state.

16           **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal year,  
17 \$562,787 is appropriated to the department of military and veterans  
18 affairs for use by the executive director's office. This appropriation is  
19 from the general fund. To implement this act, the division may use this  
20 appropriation for the Colorado National Guard tuition waiver.

21           **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
22 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
24 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
25 institutions.