

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis
House Appropriations Committee

Concerning tuition waivers for members of the Colorado National Guard, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Prime Sponsors:

Senators Bridges; Kirkmeyer
Representatives Bird; Taggart

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Already Added to Bill, No Amendment in Packet

General Fund Impact

Fiscal Note Status

"The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 03/31/2025.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

The reengrossed bill includes a committee amendment that was adopted on second reading in the Senate (04/02/25), however, Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree that the amendment makes only technical adjustments and does not change the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet

None.

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill includes an appropriation clause appropriating \$562,787 General Fund to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has proposed a budget package for FY 2025-26 based on the March 2025 Office of State Planning and Budgeting revenue forecast. The JBC has included as part of its FY 2025-26 budget package \$562,787 General Fund to be appropriated for implementation of this bill.

Technical Issues

The fiscal note indicates a cost increase for the tuition waiver program in FY 2026-27, estimated at \$1.8 million per year. This total includes \$1.2 million that is already appropriated for the current DMVA tuition assistance program in the FY 2025-26 Long Bill, along with an additional \$562,287 increase in appropriations proposed in this tuition waiver bill. It is expected that spending on the program will be approximately the same level in FY 2026-27 as FY 2025-26, and future increases in enrollment or tuition will be addressed during the annual budget process.