

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - Second Session - 2018

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB753

Chairperson: Senator John Murante

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 02, 2018

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 753 amends the law to change how the Nebraska National Guard Tuition Assistance program is administered. Currently this program uses a “tuition reimbursement” system. Guard members pay up-front and then are required to apply for and navigate a bureaucratic process in order to be reimbursed for their tuition cost. The bill changes this process to a “tuition waiver” system to reduce bureaucracy and make the process easier for Guard members. The benefit remains unchanged. 75% of the tuition cost will be “waived” up-front when the Guard member registers for classes instead of applying for “reimbursement” later. The Guard member will pay 25% of the tuition cost up front and the college or university will then “invoice” the Military Department for the remaining 75% of the “waived” cost. The Military Department will have to develop new internal processes to accommodate the change and make payments to colleges and universities from general funds it is appropriated for the tuition assistance program. LB 753 DOES NOT require colleges and the university to absorb 75% of the tuition cost for a member of the National Guard. It merely affords the same level of convenience to the Guard member that is currently enjoyed by the son or daughter of a college or university professor whose tuition is “waived” when they register for classes.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tom Brewer