

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1139

Approved by the Governor April 9, 1996

Introduced by Robinson, 16; Janssen, 15; Lynch, 13; Stuhr, 24; Vrtiska, 1

AN ACT relating to the Nebraska National Guard; to amend sections 85-505 and 85-507, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to extend the tuition credit program to independent colleges and universities; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 85-505, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

85-505. Any member of the Nebraska National Guard who enrolls in any state-supported university, college, or community college or any independent, not-for-profit, regionally accredited college or university in this state shall be entitled to a credit of fifty percent of the resident tuition charges of such school, except that any member who attends an independent, not-for-profit, regionally accredited college or university in this state shall receive a credit in an amount no higher than that person would receive if he or she attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Such entitlement shall be for a period of ten years from the date of the member's initial membership so long as the member maintains satisfactory performance with the guard and pursues his or her course of study in such institution in a manner which satisfies the normal requirements of the institution. Any member entitled to a credit of seventy-five percent of resident tuition charges and enrolled in the tuition credit program as of October 1, 1992, shall continue to be entitled to the credit at such rate until completion of the educational program in which he or she is enrolled on October 1, 1992, so long as the member maintains satisfactory performance with the guard and pursues his or her course of study in such institution in a manner which satisfies the normal requirements of the institution. The number of individuals granted tuition credit shall not exceed the number specified in section 85-505.01 during any fiscal year. When determining to whom such tuition credit shall be awarded, priority shall be given to those individuals who have previously received tuition credits while a National Guard member, and the Nebraska National Guard shall apply those program qualifications and limitations consistent with efficient and effective program management as determined by the Adjutant General.

Sec. 2. Section 85-507, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

85-507. The spouse and children of any member of the Nebraska National Guard who dies while serving in the active service of the state shall be entitled to a credit of one hundred percent of the tuition charges in any state-supported university, college, or community college or any independent, not-for-profit, regionally accredited college or university in this state, except that any spouse or child who attends an independent, not-for-profit, regionally accredited college or university in this state shall receive a credit in an amount no higher than that spouse or child would receive if he or she attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Such tuition credit shall be for any undergraduate course of education not exceeding four years, except that no credit shall be granted to the spouse after the tenth anniversary of the member's death and no credit shall be granted to a child after such child's twenty-fifth birthday. All persons eligible for tuition credit under this section shall obtain a certificate of eligibility from the Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard and present such certificate to the educational institution.

Sec. 3. Original sections 85-505 and 85-507, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.