

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the Educational Dollars for Duty  
 3           program; amending s. 250.10, F.S.; revising  
 4           eligibility for the Educational Dollars for Duty (EDD)  
 5           program to include members of the Florida National  
 6           Guard who enroll in certain degree programs in this  
 7           state or another state; conforming application  
 8           requirements, requirements for courses included in the  
 9           EDD, and requirements for adoption of tuition payment  
 10          guidelines by the Adjutant General; providing an  
 11          effective date.

12  
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 15           Section 1. Subsection (7) of section 250.10, Florida  
 16           Statutes, is amended to read:

17           250.10 Appointment and duties of the Adjutant General.—

18           (7) The Adjutant General shall develop an education  
 19           assistance program for members in good standing of the Florida  
 20           National Guard who enroll in an authorized course of study at a  
 21           public or nonpublic postsecondary institution or technical  
 22           center in this state or another ~~the~~ state, or who enroll in an  
 23           authorized course of study through an online degree program  
 24           provided by a public or nonpublic postsecondary institution or  
 25           technical center in this state or another state, which

26 | postsecondary institution or technical center has been  
 27 | accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the United  
 28 | States Department of Education or licensed by the Commission for  
 29 | Independent Education. Education assistance also may be used for  
 30 | training to obtain industry certifications approved by the  
 31 | Department of Education pursuant to s. 1008.44 and continuing  
 32 | education to maintain license certifications. The education  
 33 | assistance program shall be known as the Educational Dollars for  
 34 | Duty program (EDD).

35 | (a) The program shall establish application requirements,  
 36 | including, but not limited to, requirements that the applicant:

- 37 | 1. Be 17 years of age or older.
- 38 | ~~2. Be presently domiciled in the state.~~
- 39 | 2.3. Be an active drilling member and in good standing in  
 40 | the Florida National Guard at the beginning of and throughout  
 41 | the entire academic term for which benefits are received.

42 | ~~3.4.~~ Maintain continuous satisfactory participation in the  
 43 | Florida National Guard for the school term for which benefits  
 44 | are received.

45 | ~~4.5.~~ Upon enrollment in the program, complete a memorandum  
 46 | of agreement to:

- 47 | a. Comply with the rules of the program.
- 48 | b. Serve in the Florida National Guard for the period  
 49 | specified in the member's enlistment or reenlistment contract.
- 50 | c. Authorize the release of information pursuant to

51 | subparagraph (d)6. by the postsecondary institution or technical  
 52 | center to the education service office of the Department of  
 53 | Military Affairs, subject to applicable federal and state law.

54 | (b) The program shall define those members of the Florida  
 55 | National Guard who are ineligible to participate in the program  
 56 | and those courses of study which are not authorized for the  
 57 | program.

58 | 1. Ineligible members include, but are not limited to, a  
 59 | member, commissioned officer, warrant officer, or enlisted  
 60 | person who has obtained a master's degree using the program.

61 | 2. Inactive members of the Florida National Guard and  
 62 | members of the Individual Ready Reserve are not eligible to  
 63 | participate in the program.

64 | 3. Courses not authorized include noncredit courses,  
 65 | courses that do not meet degree requirements, courses that do  
 66 | not meet requirements for completion of career training, or  
 67 | other courses as determined by program definitions.

68 | 4. The program may not pay repeat course fees.

69 | (c) The program may include, but is not limited to:

70 | 1. Courses at a public or nonpublic postsecondary  
 71 | institution or technical center in this state or another ~~the~~  
 72 | state, or online degree program courses provided by a public or  
 73 | nonpublic postsecondary institution or technical center in this  
 74 | state or another state, which postsecondary institution or  
 75 | technical center is accredited by an accrediting body recognized

76 | by the United States Department of Education or licensed by the  
 77 | Commission for Independent Education.

78 |       2. Training to obtain industry certifications, limited to  
 79 | certifications approved by the Department of Education under s.  
 80 | 1008.44.

81 |       3. Continuing education to maintain a license or  
 82 | certification. Notwithstanding subparagraph (b)1., members who  
 83 | have obtained a master's degree using the program are eligible  
 84 | for funding under this subparagraph.

85 |       4. Licensing and industry certification examination fees.  
 86 | Notwithstanding subparagraph (b)1., members who have obtained a  
 87 | master's degree using the program are eligible for funding under  
 88 | this subparagraph.

89 |       5. Notwithstanding subparagraph (b)3., developmental  
 90 | educational courses.

91 |       (d) The Adjutant General shall adopt rules for the overall  
 92 | policy, guidance, administration, implementation, and proper use  
 93 | of the program. Such rules must include, but need not be limited  
 94 | to:

95 |           1. Guidelines for certification by the Adjutant General of  
 96 | a guard member's eligibility.

97 |           2. Procedures for notification to a postsecondary  
 98 | institution or technical center of a guard member's termination  
 99 | of eligibility.

100 |           3. Guidelines for approving courses of study that are

101 authorized for the program, including online courses, industry  
 102 certification training, and continuing education to maintain  
 103 license certifications.

104 4. Guidelines for approving the use of program funds for  
 105 licensing and industry certification examination fees.

106 5. Procedures for restitution when a guard member fails to  
 107 comply with the penalties described in this section.

108 6. Procedures that require a public or nonpublic  
 109 postsecondary institution or technical center that receives  
 110 funding from the program to provide information regarding course  
 111 enrollment, course withdrawal, course cancellation, course  
 112 completion, course failure, and grade verification of enrolled  
 113 members to the education service office of the Department of  
 114 Military Affairs.

115 7. Guidelines for the payment of tuition and fees, not to  
 116 exceed:

117 a. The highest in-state tuition rate charged by a public  
 118 postsecondary institution in this ~~the~~ state. If the guard member  
 119 is enrolled in a public or nonpublic postsecondary institution  
 120 or technical center in another state, he or she is responsible  
 121 for payment of any tuition and fees charged by the institution  
 122 or center in excess of such amount.

123 b. If the guard member is enrolled in an online degree  
 124 program, the highest tuition rate charged by a program provided  
 125 by a public postsecondary institution in this state or another

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126 | state.

127 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.