

## CHAPTER 94

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**EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

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**SENATE BILL 96-023**

BY SENATORS Mutzebaugh and Tanner;

also REPRESENTATIVES Owen, Chlouber, Epps, Hagedorn, Lyle, Martin, McPherson, and Schwarz.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING TUITION ASSISTANCE AT CERTAIN POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** 23-5-111.4 (1), (2), and (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, 1995 Repl. Vol., are amended to read:

**23-5-111.4. Tuition for members of the national guard.** (1) The general assembly recognizes its responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of a strong well-trained and high-spirited national guard. The encouragement of membership in the guard through the granting of reduced or free tuition at certain institutions of post-secondary education simultaneously expresses a commitment to a part of this responsibility and supports existing institutions, carrying out a policy of maintaining reasonable access to quality education as broadly in this state as possible. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL ENCOURAGE ENLISTMENTS, ENHANCE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.

(2) (a) Any person who is a member of the Colorado national guard, upon being accepted for enrollment at any designated institution of higher education, shall be permitted to pursue studies leading toward a bachelor's degree, a postgraduate degree, an associate degree, or a certificate of completion with ~~up to~~ <sup>up to</sup> AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT BUT NOT MORE THAN seventy-five percent of the cost of tuition paid by the department of military affairs, subject to available appropriations, for so long as such person remains a member of the Colorado national guard, but such tuition payments shall not be made for more than one hundred thirty-two semester hours or one hundred ninety-eight quarter hours OR FOR MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS.

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

(b) ~~In addition~~, In order to qualify for the tuition assistance authorized by this section, such member:

(I) Must meet the criteria for eligibility, as established by rules and regulations pursuant to subsection (7) of this section; ~~and~~

(II) MAY NOT BE DRAWING TUITION FROM ANY OTHER TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDED BY A PRIVATE EMPLOYER;

(III) MAY NOT BE A RECIPIENT OF A FULL SCHOLARSHIP FOR TUITION AND FEES TO ANY DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

(IV) Agree to serve two years in the Colorado national guard for each year of tuition assistance granted.

(c) IN PROVIDING THE TUITION ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS IS ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO NEWLY-ENLISTED MEMBERS IN THEIR FIRST TERM OF SERVICE.

(d) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "MEMBER" MEANS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OR ANY OFFICER DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2).

(3) For the purposes of this section, "designated institution of higher education" means the university of southern Colorado, Adams state college, Mesa state college, Metropolitan state college of Denver, Fort Lewis college, Western state college of Colorado, all independent area vocational schools, all local district colleges, the university of northern Colorado, the university of Colorado at Denver, ~~the university of Colorado at Colorado Springs, the university of Colorado at Boulder, the school of nursing at the university of Colorado health sciences center~~, based on the amount of in-state tuition for general studies at the university of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado state university, the Colorado school of mines, and all community colleges governed by the state board for community colleges and occupational education.

**SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: April 17, 1996