

CHAPTER 130

MILITARY AND VETERANS

HOUSE BILL 14-1277

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Melton, Lebsock, Buckner, Exum, Fields, Landgraf, May, Nordberg, Rankin, Ryden, Foote, Garcia, Ginal, Hullinghorst, Labuda, Mitsch Bush, Moreno, Pettersen, Primavera, Salazar, Schafer, Singer, Vigil, Williams, Young, Fischer, Hamner, Kagan, Kraft-Tharp, Lee, McLachlan, Navarro, Rosenthal, Wright, Ferrandino;
also SENATOR(S) Todd, Aguilar, Crowder, Guzman, Heath, Herpin, Hill, Hodge, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, King, Newell, Nicholson, Rivera, Roberts, Schwartz, Tochtrop, Ulibarri, Zeninger, Carroll.

AN ACT**CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS FROM THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-3-1501 as follows:

28-3-1501. Legislative declaration. The general assembly hereby finds and declares that, due to the many involuntary mobilizations subsequent to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, many families of Colorado National Guard members and reservists face financial hardships when the National Guard member or reservist is called to active military duty OR STATE ACTIVE DUTY because the military pay of a soldier is often far less than his or her civilian salary. Because private companies often do not make up the difference in salary, military families may see a significant drop in household income while a family member is away on active military duty OR STATE ACTIVE DUTY. In addition, active duty military personnel and their families encounter additional hardships when the active duty member is deployed to zones in which he or she will encounter hostile fire. Many families of Colorado National Guard members, reservists, and active duty military personnel also face additional expenses caused by a long family separation. The general assembly further finds and declares that grants from the military family relief fund are intended to help families defray the costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services, and other expenses that may be difficult to afford when a family member leaves civilian employment for active military duty, ~~or~~ is on active military duty in a hostile fire zone, OR IS CALLED TO STATE ACTIVE DUTY BY EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR.

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

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3-1503, **amend** (2) (a) and (3) (a) as follows:

28-3-1503. Administration of moneys. (2) A member of the Colorado National Guard or a reservist shall meet the following requirements to be eligible to receive a grant from the fund:

(a) The National Guard member or reservist is currently on active military duty for a minimum of thirty days on involuntary mobilization orders OR IS CALLED TO STATE ACTIVE DUTY BY EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR.

(3) (a) Each National Guard member or reservist or the family of a National Guard member or reservist may apply to the Colorado National Guard foundation for one grant per set of mobilization orders OR PER EXECUTIVE ORDER. Subject to the provisions of paragraph (c) of this subsection (3), if the foundation determines that the National Guard member or reservist or the family of a National Guard member or reservist is eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this section, the foundation shall issue the grant.

SECTION 3. 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 25, 2014