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H.648

Introduced by Representatives Tate of Mendon, Batchelor of Derby, Branagan  
of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven,  
Dame of Essex, Fiske of Enosburgh, Gage of Rutland City,  
Morrissey of Bennington, Parent of St. Albans Town, Savage of  
Swanton, Viens of Newport City, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; scholarships; Vermont National Guard

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create  
Vermont National Guard Educational Assistance Program to enable members  
of the Vermont National Guard to take courses tuition free at the University of  
Vermont and State Agricultural College or a Vermont State College.

An act relating to the Vermont National Guard Educational Assistance  
Program

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. TITLE

This act shall be known as the Vermont National Guard Education  
Assistance Act.

1 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2542 is added to read:

2 § 2542. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE  
3 PROGRAM

4 (a) A member of the Vermont National Guard who meets the eligibility  
5 requirements in subsection (b) of this section may take courses tuition free at  
6 the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College or a Vermont State  
7 College.

8 (b) To be eligible for the Vermont National Guard Educational Assistance  
9 Program, an individual shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

10 (1) be an active member of the Vermont National Guard;

11 (2) have successfully completed basic training; and

12 (3) be enrolled in a program at the University of Vermont and State  
13 Agricultural College or a Vermont State College that leads to an undergraduate  
14 certificate or degree.

15 (4) Have exhausted any post-September 11, 2001 tuition benefits and  
16 other federally-funded military tuition assistance. This subdivision shall not  
17 apply to Montgomery GI Bill benefits, post-September 11, 2001 educational  
18 program housing allowances, federal educational entitlements, national guard  
19 scholarship grants, and other non-tuition benefits.

20 (5) Submit a statement of good standing signed by the member's  
21 commanding officer within 30 days after the beginning of each semester if the

1 individual is enrolled as a full-time student, or within 30 days after the  
2 beginning of each individual class if the individual is not enrolled as a full-time  
3 student.

4 (c)(1) The Adjutant and Inspector General shall administer the Program,  
5 and determine the eligibility of members of the Vermont National Guard to  
6 receive the Program's benefits.

7 (2) The Adjutant and Inspector General shall adopt rules and procedures  
8 necessary to implement the Program.

9 (3) The President of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural  
10 College and the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges shall adopt policies  
11 and procedures for the enrollment of Vermont National Guard members in  
12 their institutions.

13 (d)(1) The Adjutant and Inspector General may terminate the educational  
14 assistance provided to a member of the Vermont National Guard pursuant to  
15 this section if:

16 (A) the member's commanding officer revokes the statement of good  
17 standing submitted pursuant to subdivision (b)(5) of this section as a result of  
18 an investigation or disciplinary action that occurred after the statement of good  
19 standing was issued; or

20 (B) the member's service in the Vermont National Guard terminates.

1           (2) If an individual's educational assistance is terminated pursuant to  
2           subdivision (1) of this subsection, the individual shall be responsible on a  
3           pro rata basis for the remaining tuition cost for the current semester or any  
4           courses in which the individual is currently enrolled.

5           (3) An individual whose educational assistance has been terminated  
6           pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be ineligible to receive  
7           future educational assistance pursuant to this section.

8           (e) If a Vermont National Guard member is dismissed from any school or  
9           educational institution for academic or disciplinary reasons, the Adjutant and  
10           Inspector General may make a determination regarding the member's  
11           eligibility to receive future educational assistance pursuant to this section.

12           (f) On or before November 1 of each year, the President of the University  
13           of Vermont and State Agricultural College and the Chancellor of the Vermont  
14           State Colleges shall report to the Governor and the House and Senate  
15           Committees on Education regarding the number of Vermont National Guard  
16           members enrolled at their institutions during the prior fiscal year who are  
17           receiving educational assistance pursuant to this section and the courses or  
18           program in which the members are enrolled. The provisions of 2 V.S.A.  
19           § 20(d) (expiration of reports) shall not apply to the reports to be made under  
20           this subsection.

1       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.