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H.449

Introduced by Representatives Tate of Mendon, Parent of St. Albans City,  
Buxton of Tunbridge, Fiske of Enosburgh, Lucke of Hartford,  
Morrissey of Bennington, Savage of Swanton, Trieber of  
Rockingham, Walz of Barre 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 establish a  
full-tuition scholarship to the University of Vermont and State Agricultural  
College or a Vermont State College for active-duty members of the Vermont  
National Guard.

An act relating to scholarships for active duty members of the Vermont  
National Guard

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

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

§ 2542. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIP

(a)(1) An active member of the Vermont National Guard may be eligible  
for a scholarship to pay for tuition for courses leading to an undergraduate

1 certificate or degree at the University of Vermont and State Agricultural  
2 College or a Vermont State College.

3 (2) The amount of a scholarship provided pursuant to this section shall  
4 be equal to the annual tuition charged to the recipient less the amount of any  
5 other financial assistance or educational grant aid that the recipient receives.  
6 The recipient of a scholarship provided pursuant to this section shall apply for  
7 all other available State and federal financial assistance that is available to the  
8 recipient. Any benefits available to the recipient pursuant to the federal  
9 Montgomery G.I. Bill shall not be considered to be financial assistance  
10 available to the recipient.

11 (b) To be eligible for a Vermont National Guard Scholarship, an individual  
12 shall:

13 (1) be an active member in good standing of the Vermont National  
14 Guard;

15 (2) have successfully completed basic training or commissioning;

16 (3) satisfy all requirements for eligibility adopted by the Adjutant and  
17 Inspector General pursuant to this section; and

18 (4) be enrolled in a program at the University of Vermont and State  
19 Agricultural College or a Vermont State College that leads to an undergraduate  
20 certificate or degree.

1       (c) An individual shall not be eligible for the Vermont National Guard  
2       Scholarship if he or she:

3           (1) is an active member of the Vermont National Guard who has  
4       obtained a bachelor's degree; or

5           (2) has failed to complete the term of his or her enlistment with the  
6       Vermont National Guard and the Adjutant and Inspector General does not  
7       determine that the recipient's failure to complete his or her term of enlistment  
8       was due to circumstances beyond his or her control.

9       (d) The tuition benefits provided pursuant to a Vermont National Guard  
10       Scholarship shall terminate if the recipient:

11           (1) obtains a bachelor's degree;

12           (2) ends his or her active service in the Vermont National Guard;

13           (3) fails to maintain good standing in the Vermont National Guard;

14           (4) fails to make sufficient academic progress pursuant to rules and  
15       regulations adopted by the Adjutant and Inspector General; or

16           (5) fails to maintain sufficient academic standing to retain eligibility for  
17       other financial assistance the recipient may be receiving.

18       (e) Notwithstanding subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section, a recipient  
19       who successfully completes his or her term of enlistment because of service in  
20       a combat theater or combat zone of operations shall be eligible to continue to  
21       receive the Vermont National Guard Scholarship if he or she was a recipient of

1 the Scholarship prior to his or her deployment in the combat theater or combat  
2 zone of operations.

3 (f) The Adjutant and Inspector General shall adopt rules and regulations  
4 necessary to implement this section.

5 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2543 is added to read:

6 § 2543. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIP SPECIAL

7 FUND

8 (a) There is created a Vermont National Guard Scholarship Special Fund,  
9 which shall be a special fund established and managed pursuant to 32 V.S.A.  
10 chapter 7, subchapter 5 and administered by the Adjutant and Inspector  
11 General. The Fund shall consist of funds from appropriations made by the  
12 General Assembly. The Fund may be expended by the Adjutant and Inspector  
13 General for Vermont National Guard Scholarships granted pursuant to section  
14 2542 of this chapter.

15 (b) All balances in the Fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried  
16 forward and shall only be used for the purposes set forth in this section.  
17 Interest earned by the Fund shall be credited to and remain in the Fund.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.