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**Act No. 140 (H.517). Education; educational benefits; military families; eligibility to serve as Adjutant and Inspector General**

**An act relating to educational benefits for members of the military and their families and eligibility for election to serve as Adjutant and Inspector General**

This act:

- amends 16 V.S.A. § 2857 (Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program) to change the amount of the tuition benefits and to clarify that the benefits can be used to obtain multiple certificates under the Program;
- creates a three-year pilot program to allow tuition benefits under the Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program to be used for a second baccalaureate degree and for a master's degree;
- amends 16 V.S.A. § 1073 ("legal pupil" defined; access to school) to add a subsection (d) that allows remote school registration of students if one or both of the student's parents or guardians are being relocated to Vermont under military orders;
- amends 16 V.S.A. §§ 2185 and 2282a (determination of residency for tuition purposes at the Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College) to add a subsection (c) that provides in-state tuition benefits for the spouse and dependent child of any person who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and stationed in this State pursuant to military orders;
- adds 16 V.S.A. § 568 (Purple Star School Programs) to require the Agency of Education to designate a school district as a Purple Star Campus if the school district applies and qualifies for the designation;
- amends 2 V.S.A. § 10 (election of State and judicial officers) to move the election of the Adjutant and Inspector General from the first year of each biennium to the second;
- amends 20 V.S.A. § 363 (officers generally) to require that for an individual to be eligible to serve as the Adjutant and Inspector General of the Vermont National Guard the individual must satisfy specified qualification criteria; and

- extends the current term of the Adjutant General through the end of February 2024 to correspond to the new election date in the second year of the biennium.

Effective Date: May 27, 2022