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Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 1:17 PM
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Subject: [External] S.104

[External]

Chair Campion -

Listed below is written testimony on S. 104 that was compiled by UVM's Registrar and Coordinator of Veteran's services. I hope this is helpful to the committee. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Wendy

The Vermont Legislature has established a lower rate of tuition for students who are Vermont residents. These regulations define eligibility requirements for in-state status classification. All students at the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (UVM) are assigned an in-state or out-of-state status classification consistent with these [regulations](#).

Additionally, the federal government and Vermont state legislature have established qualification for assessment of a lower rate of tuition, consistent with the rate established by the Vermont Legislature for in-state residents and detailed in the University's Residency Policy, for certain students who are members of the Vermont National Guard, or Armed Forces or Veterans thereof, as well as certain family members of those students. Irrespective of a student's out-of-state status as defined in the Residency Policy, upon submission of appropriate documentation, UVM will charge members of the Vermont National Guard, armed forces, veterans, and qualifying family members the in-state tuition rate in accordance with applicable law. For further details see: <https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/UVM-Policies/policies/armedforcesbilling.pdf>

Section 3 (c) of S.104 appears to closely mirror the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) which, as described above, UVM already has a procedure in place to administer. In our review of S.104, it lacks the specificity of the HEOA in multiple areas which will make it challenging to administer.

Frist, S.104 does not specify Title 10 or Title 32 orders but states "stationed in this State pursuant to military orders". VT Guard members who use the VSAC Vermont Tuition Benefit Program are already billed at

the in-state rate if they are classified out-of-state as long as they complete VSAC applications.

Second, S.104 proposes reclassifying these students as in-state, rather than merely billing them at the in-state rate like we do with any other military member eligible for various in-state rate benefits. That seems to contradict the UVM Residency Policy set by the VT State Legislature.

Finally, there is not a specified period of eligibility or requirement for continuous enrollment like in HEOA. If its intention is to change the residency classification of certain VT National Guard members, it would be easier to administer if it stated the population it's supporting.