



The National Guard Association of Kansas



The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Kansas

Testimony for the Kansas House of Representatives Committee on Veterans and Military

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the committee: good morning and thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I am Captain Nicky Inskeep with the National Guard Association of Kansas.

The Kansas National Guard Education Assistance Program is funded in part by the Kansas Veterans Lottery Program. This provides scholarships for (mostly young) enlisted Kansas National Guard soldiers and airmen to attend Kansas colleges and universities, which right now only pays 57% of in-state tuition.

Currently under state law, 60% of the revenue from the lottery program goes to the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, and 40% to the Kansas National Guard Education Assistance Program. However, that revenue does provide all the funding for the National Guard Education program. As you can see from the table below, the lottery money is rolled into a larger appropriation by the Kansas Legislature out of State General Fund:¹

Fiscal Year	40% Lottery Revenue	Total Appropriation	Difference	% funded by Lottery	% funded by Legislature
FY 2004	\$253,028.00	\$725,028.00	\$472,000.00	35%	65%
FY 2005	\$280,465.00	\$925,838.00	\$645,373.00	30%	70%
FY 2006	\$286,845.00	\$925,838.00	\$638,993.00	31%	69%
FY 2007	\$365,255.00	\$925,838.00	\$560,583.00	39%	61%
FY 2008	\$352,065.00	\$925,838.00	\$573,773.00	38%	62%
FY 2009	\$651,583.00	\$925,838.00	\$274,255.00	70%	30%
FY 2010	\$412,177.00	\$889,504.00	\$477,327.00	46%	54%
FY 2011	\$302,274.00	\$881,365.00	\$579,091.00	34%	66%
FY 2012	\$541,024.00	\$870,869.00	\$329,845.00	62%	38%
FY 2013	\$637,650.00	\$870,869.00	\$233,219.00	73%	27%
FY 2014	\$718,021.00	\$853,451.00	\$135,430.00	84%	16%
FY 2015	\$634,971.00	\$870,869.00	\$235,898.00	73%	27%

¹ Source: Kansas National Guard Education Office

House Bill 2196 would create a new fund administered by the Adjutant General called the National Guard Benefit Lottery Game Fund, where the revenue would be deposited and from which it would be drawn to support National Guard Education Assistance. Unfortunately, the money in the National Guard Benefit Lottery Game Fund created by this bill would ONLY contain the money from the second column above; it is not known how this bill would impact the total funding that you see in the third column. That unknown is why we are unable to support this bill.

The Governor's Budget² calls for an appropriation specifically out of State General Fund for FY17, FY18, and FY19 to support National Guard Education Assistance in an amount that is greater than the projected lottery revenue for the program. As such, we just don't know for sure where the difference will come from, which as recently as 2011 funded two-thirds of the education scholarships. The stakes are too high for our soldiers and airmen to risk losing that.

We would very much like to work with our friends at KCVA to come up with a solution that accomplishes their objectives while protecting the educating our National Guard members. We just don't think this bill goes far enough to protect the funding of the National Guard Education Assistance Program. Thank you for your consideration of our position, and as always thank you for your ongoing support of the soldiers and airmen of the Kansas National Guard! I am available at the appropriate time to answer your questions.

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² <http://www.budget.ks.gov/gbr.htm>, *FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report—Volume 1*, "National Guard Ed. Assistance," page 126.