

HOUSE BILL No. 2123

AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; relating to the Kansas national guard educational assistance act; participant qualifications; amending K.S.A. 74-32,149 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 74-32,149 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-32,149. (a) (1) In order to qualify for participation in the Kansas national guard educational assistance program, an eligible guard member must agree, in writing, to complete such member's current service obligation in the Kansas national guard, ~~have at least one year remaining on such member's enlistment contract at the beginning of any semester for which the member receives assistance under the program and must agree to~~ serve actively in good standing with the Kansas national guard for not less than 24 months upon completion of the last semester for which the member receives assistance under the program.

(2) Prior to becoming eligible for participation in the program, each eligible guard member shall submit the free application for federal student aid, and apply for any other federal tuition assistance that such member also may be eligible to receive.

(b) In order to remain eligible for participation in the program, an eligible guard member must remain in good standing at the Kansas educational institution where enrolled, make satisfactory progress toward completion of the requirements of the educational program in which enrolled, maintain a grade point average of not less than 2.0 and maintain satisfactory participation in the Kansas national guard. It shall be the responsibility of the eligible guard member to obtain a certificate from the member's commanding officer attesting to the member's satisfactory participation in the Kansas national guard and to present the certificate to the educational institution, in order to obtain a payment under this act. The certificate shall be presented at the time payment is requested for completed courses. Upon completion of each semester, each eligible guard member receiving assistance under the program shall submit a transcript of the credit hours earned, including the grades for credit hours, to such member's unit of assignment.

(c) Upon failure of any person, who as an eligible guard member received payments under the Kansas national guard educational assistance act, to satisfy the agreement to continue service in the Kansas national guard as provided by subsection (a), such person shall pay to the state of Kansas an amount to be determined as follows:

(1) Determine the total amount of assistance paid to such member under the program;

(2) divide the amount determined under subsection (c)(1) by 24; and

(3) multiply the amount determined under subsection (c)(2) by the number of months such member did not serve as required by subsection (a). The resulting product is the total amount of recoupment from such member.

All amounts paid to the state under this subsection shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the Kansas national guard educational assistance program repayment fund created by K.S.A. 74-32,150, and amendments thereto.

(d) Any eligible guard member that received payments under the program but has failed to satisfy the agreement to continue service in the Kansas national guard as provided by subsection (a) by reason of extenuating circumstances or extreme hardship may request a waiver from recoupment. Such request shall be in writing and submitted through such member's chain of command to the Kansas national guard education services office. The chief of staff of the Kansas army national guard or the director of staff for the Kansas air national guard shall review all requests for a waiver from recoupment and the decision to issue such waiver shall be made by either officer as such officer deems appropriate.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 74-32,149 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above Bill originated in the House, and passed that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.