

# **REPORT OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL & BENEFITS SUBCOMMITTEE**

(Anthony, Herbkersman, Hayes, Pitts & Whitmire - Staff Contact: Kara Brurok)

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## **HOUSE BILL 3784**

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H. 3784 -- Rep. J.E. Smith: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59-114-30, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, SO AS TO CLARIFY THAT EACH ACADEMIC YEAR'S ANNUAL MAXIMUM GRANT MUST BE BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE PROGRAM FUNDS; TO AMEND SECTION 59-114-40, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANTS UPON COMPLETION OF BASIC TRAINING AND ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING; AND TO AMEND SECTION 59-114-65, RELATING TO GRANT AVAILABILITY, SO AS TO ALLOW APPROPRIATIONS TO THE NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO BE CARRIED FORWARD TO A SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR AND EXPENDED FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, AND TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS TO THE NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FROM MIDYEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS.

***Summary of Bill:***

This bill would provide clarification to the National Guard College Assistance Program concerning the annual maximum grant amount and qualification requirements. It also allows appropriations to the program be carried forward and exempts the program from mid-year budget reductions.

***Introduced:***

03/07/2013

***Received by Ways and Means:***

03/07/2013

***Estimated Fiscal Impact:***

Pending

***Subcommittee Recommendation:***

Adopted

***Full Committee Recommendation:***

Pending

***Other Notes/Comments:***

**South Carolina General Assembly**  
120th Session, 2013-2014

**H. 3784**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Rep. J.E. Smith

Document Path: I:\council\bills\ggs\22547zw13.docx

Introduced in the House on March 7, 2013

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Ways and Means**

Summary: National Guard College Assistance Program

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
3/7/2013	House	Introduced and read first time ( <a href="#">House Journal-page 15</a> )
3/7/2013	House	Referred to Committee on <b>Ways and Means</b> ( <a href="#">House Journal-page 15</a> )

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

3/7/2013

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9 **A BILL**

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11 TO AMEND SECTION 59-114-30, AS AMENDED, CODE OF  
12 LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE  
13 NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,  
14 SO AS TO CLARIFY THAT EACH ACADEMIC YEAR'S  
15 ANNUAL MAXIMUM GRANT MUST BE BASED ON THE  
16 AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE PROGRAM FUNDS; TO AMEND  
17 SECTION 59-114-40, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE  
18 NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
19 QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE  
20 THAT NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS BECOME ELIGIBLE  
21 FOR COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANTS UPON  
22 COMPLETION OF BASIC TRAINING AND ADVANCED  
23 INDIVIDUAL TRAINING; AND TO AMEND SECTION  
24 59-114-65, RELATING TO GRANT AVAILABILITY, SO AS  
25 TO ALLOW APPROPRIATIONS TO THE NATIONAL GUARD  
26 COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO BE CARRIED  
27 FORWARD TO A SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR AND  
28 EXPENDED FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, AND TO EXEMPT  
29 APPROPRIATIONS TO THE NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE  
30 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FROM MIDYEAR BUDGET  
31 REDUCTIONS.

32  
33 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South  
34 Carolina:

35  
36 SECTION 1. Section 59-114-30 of the 1976 Code, as last  
37 amended by Act 40 of 2007, is further amended to read:

38  
39 "Section 59-114-30. Qualifying members of the National  
40 Guard may receive college assistance program grants up to an  
41 amount equal to one hundred percent of college tuition and fees,  
42 provided, however, the total of all grants received may not exceed

1 eighteen thousand dollars. A member may not qualify for college  
2 assistance program grants for more than one hundred thirty  
3 semester hours or related quarter hours. Grants are not to be  
4 awarded for graduate degree courses. A new application must be  
5 submitted for each separate academic year prior to the beginning  
6 of the academic year. The annual maximum grant must be  
7 determined for each academic year based on the amount of  
8 available program funds.”

9  
10 SECTION 2. Section 59-114-40(B) of the 1976 Code, as last  
11 amended by Act 40 of 2007, is further amended to read:

12  
13 “(B) Individuals joining the National Guard become eligible for  
14 college assistance program grants ~~on the day of enlistment upon~~  
15 completion of basic training and Advanced Individual Training  
16 (AIT). Enlisted personnel shall continue their service in the  
17 National Guard during the term of the courses covered by the grant  
18 received. Officers shall continue their service with the National  
19 Guard for at least four years after completion of the most recent  
20 grant awarded or degree completion.”

21  
22 SECTION 3. Section 59-114-65 of the 1976 Code, as added by  
23 Act 40 of 2007, is amended to read:

24  
25 “Section 59-114-65. Grants provided pursuant to this chapter  
26 are subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the General  
27 Assembly. Funds appropriated for the college assistance program  
28 may be carried forward and expended for the same purpose. If a  
29 midyear budget reduction is imposed by the General Assembly or  
30 the State Budget and Control Board, the appropriations for the  
31 college assistance program are exempt. Up to five percent of the  
32 amount appropriated to the college assistance program may be  
33 used to defray administrative costs incurred by the commission  
34 associated with the implementation of this chapter.”

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36 SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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