

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred House Bill No. 517  
3 entitled “An act relating to the Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit  
4 Program” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends  
5 that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by striking out all  
6 after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 \* \* \* Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program \* \* \*

8 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2857(c) is amended to read:

9 (c) Eligibility.

10 (1) To be eligible for the Program, an individual, whether a resident or  
11 nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

12 ~~(1)~~(A) be an active member of the Vermont National Guard;

13 ~~(2)~~(B) have successfully completed basic training;

14 ~~(3)~~(C) be enrolled at UVM, a Vermont State College, or any other

15 college or university located in Vermont in a program that leads to an

16 undergraduate certificate or degree or at an eligible training institution in a

17 program that leads to a certificate or other credential recognized by VSAC;

18 ~~(4)~~(D) have not previously earned an undergraduate bachelor’s degree;

19 ~~(5)~~(E) continually demonstrate satisfactory academic progress as

20 determined by criteria established by the Vermont National Guard and VSAC,

1 in consultation with the educational institution at which the individual is  
2 enrolled under the Program;

3 ~~(F)~~ have used available post-September 11, 2001 tuition benefits and  
4 other federally funded military tuition assistance; provided, however, that this  
5 subdivision shall not apply to:

6 ~~(A)~~(i) tuition benefits and other federally funded military tuition  
7 assistance for which the individual has not yet earned the full amount of the  
8 benefit or tuition;

9 ~~(B)~~(ii) Montgomery GI Bill benefits;

10 ~~(C)~~(iii) post-September 11, 2001 educational program housing  
11 allowances;

12 ~~(D)~~(iv) federal educational entitlements;

13 ~~(E)~~(v) National Guard scholarship grants;

14 ~~(F)~~(vi) loans under section 2856 of this title; and

15 ~~(G)~~(vii) other nontuition benefits; and

16 ~~(7)~~(G) have submitted a statement of good standing to VSAC signed by  
17 the individual's commanding officer within 30 days prior to the beginning of  
18 each semester.

19 (2) An individual may receive more than one undergraduate certificate  
20 or other credential recognized by VSAC under the Program, provided that the  
21 cost of all certificates and credentials received by the individual under the

1 Program does not exceed the full-time in-state tuition rate charged by NVU for  
2 completion of an undergraduate baccalaureate degree.

3 Sec. 2. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD TUITION BENEFIT

4 PROGRAM EXTENSION; MASTER'S DEGREE OR A SECOND  
5 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE; PILOT

6 (a) The provisions of this section shall apply notwithstanding 16 V.S.A.  
7 § 2857.

8 (b) A National Guard member shall be eligible to pursue a second  
9 undergraduate baccalaureate degree under the Vermont National Guard Tuition  
10 Benefit Program, whether a resident or nonresident, if the individual received a  
11 first undergraduate baccalaureate degree that was not funded under the  
12 Program or any other State funding source designed exclusively for members  
13 of the Vermont National Guard.

14 (c)(1) A National Guard member shall be eligible to pursue a graduate  
15 degree under the Program, whether a resident or nonresident, if the individual  
16 agrees in the promissory note under 16 V.S.A. § 2857(b) to, upon receipt of the  
17 graduate degree and until the individual's service commitment under 16 V.S.A.  
18 § 2857(d) is satisfied, be employed full time in Vermont or, if unemployed, be  
19 actively seeking full-time employment in Vermont.

1           (2) An individual may pursue a graduate degree under the Program even  
2           if the individual has received an undergraduate baccalaureate degree under the  
3           Program.

4           (3) The Office of the Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General may  
5           terminate the tuition benefit provided to an individual who has earned a  
6           graduate degree under the Program for failure to satisfy the work requirement  
7           under subdivision (1) this subsection.

8           Sec. 3. REPEAL

9           Sec. 2 of this act is repealed on July 1, 2025.

10                           \* \* \* Education of Military Families \* \* \*

11           Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1073 is amended to read:

12           § 1073. “LEGAL PUPIL” DEFINED; ACCESS TO SCHOOL

13                           \* \* \*

14           (d) If one or both of a child’s parents or guardians are being relocated to the  
15           State under military orders, a school district shall allow registration of the  
16           student by mail, telephone, or electronically and shall not require the parent or  
17           legal guardian of the student or the student themselves to physically appear at a  
18           location within the district to register the student. Proof of required residency  
19           shall not be required at the time of the remote registration but shall be required  
20           within 10 days of the student’s attendance in the school district.

1 Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 2185 is amended to read:

2 § 2185. DETERMINATION OF RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

3 (a) The Board of Trustees shall adopt policies related to residency for  
4 tuition purposes, consistent with State and federal requirements.

5 (b) Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty who is  
6 transferred to Vermont for duty other than for the purpose of education shall,  
7 upon transfer and for the period of active duty served in Vermont, be  
8 considered a resident for in-state tuition purposes at the start of the next  
9 semester or academic period.

10 (c) The spouse and dependent child of any person who is a member of the  
11 U.S. Armed Forces and stationed in this State pursuant to military orders shall  
12 be entitled to be considered, upon taking up a residence in the State, a resident  
13 for in-state tuition purposes at the start of the next semester or academic  
14 period. The spouse and dependent child shall not lose classification as an in-  
15 state student if the member of the U.S. Armed Forces is thereafter transferred  
16 on military orders or retires.

17 Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 2282a is amended to read:

18 § 2282a. DETERMINATION OF RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

19 (a) Enrollment at an institution for higher learning, or presence within the  
20 State for the purposes of attending an institution of higher learning, shall not

1 by itself constitute residence for in-state tuition purposes or for the purpose of  
2 eligibility for assistance from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

3 (b) Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces ~~of the United States~~ on active  
4 duty who is transferred to Vermont for duty other than for the purpose of  
5 education shall, upon transfer and for the period of active duty served in  
6 Vermont, be considered a resident for in-state tuition purposes at the start of  
7 the next semester or academic period.

8 (c) The spouse and dependent child of any person who is a member of the  
9 U.S. Armed Forces and stationed in this State pursuant to military orders shall  
10 be entitled to be considered, upon taking up a residence in the State, a resident  
11 for in-state tuition purposes at the start of the next semester or academic  
12 period. The spouse and dependent child shall not lose classification as an in-  
13 state student if the member of the U.S. Armed Forces is thereafter transferred  
14 on military orders or retires.

15 \* \* \* Purple Star School Programs \* \* \*

16 Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 568 is added to read:

17 § 568. PURPLE STAR CAMPUS DESIGNATION

18 (a) As used in this section, “military-connected student” means a student  
19 who is a dependent of a current or former member of:

20 (1) the U.S. military serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine  
21 Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard on active duty;

- 1           (2) the Vermont National Guard;  
2           (3) a reserve force of the U.S. Armed Forces; or  
3           (4) a member of a military or reserve force described in subdivision (1),  
4           (2), or (3) of this subsection who was killed in the line of duty.

5           (b) The Agency of Education shall designate a school district as a Purple  
6           Star Campus if the school district applies and qualifies for the designation  
7           under this section.

8           (c) To qualify as a Purple Star Campus, a school district shall:

9           (1) designate a staff member as a military liaison, whose duties include:

10           (A) identifying military-connected students enrolled in the district's  
11           schools;

12           (B) serving as the point of contact between the school district and  
13           military-connected students and their families;

14           (C) determining appropriate school services available to military-  
15           connected students; and

16           (D) assisting in coordinating school programs relevant to military-  
17           connected students;

18           (2) maintain within the school district an Internet website with an easily  
19           accessible web page that includes resources for military-connected students  
20           and their families, including information regarding:

1           (A) relocation to, enrollment at, registration at, and transferring  
2 records to the school district;

3           (B) academic planning, course sequences, and advanced classes  
4 available at the school district; and

5           (C) counseling and other support services available for military-  
6 connected students enrolled in the school district;

7           (3) maintain a transition program led by students, where appropriate,  
8 that assists military-connected students in transitioning into the school district;

9           (4) offer professional development for staff members on issues related  
10 to military-connected students; and

11           (5) offer at least one of the following initiatives:

12           (A) a resolution showing support for military-connected students and  
13 their families;

14           (B) recognition of the Month of the Military Child or Military Family  
15 Month with relevant events hosted by the school district; or

16           (C) a partnership with a local military installation that provides  
17 opportunities for active duty military members to volunteer with the school  
18 district, speak at an assembly, or host a field trip.

19           (d) To comply with the requirements under subdivisions (c)(2), (4), or (5)  
20 of this section, a school district may partner with a third party to provide those  
21 services and initiatives.



1 Corporation and the Adjutant and Inspector General. In case election of all  
2 such ~~legislative trustees~~ officers shall not be made on that day, they shall meet  
3 in joint assembly at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes, forenoon, on each succeeding  
4 day, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, and proceed in such election, until all  
5 such ~~legislative trustees~~ officers are elected.

6 Sec. 9. 20 V.S.A. § 363 is amended to read:

7 § 363. OFFICERS GENERALLY

8 (a)(1) The General Assembly shall biennially elect an Adjutant and  
9 Inspector General for a term of two years.

10 \* \* \*

11 (3) In order to be eligible for election to serve as Adjutant and Inspector  
12 General, an individual shall:

13 (A) have attained the rank of Colonel (O-6) or above;

14 (B) be a current member of the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force, the  
15 U.S. Army Reserve, the U.S. Air Force Reserve, the Army National Guard, or  
16 the Air National Guard or be eligible to return to active service in the Army  
17 National Guard or the Air National Guard;

18 (C) be a graduate of a Senior Service College; and

19 (D) be eligible for federal recognition.

20 \* \* \*

21 \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

1       Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

2           This act shall take effect on passage.

3           and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act  
4 relating to educational benefits for members of the military and their families  
5 and eligibility for election to serve as Adjutant and Inspector General”

6

7

8           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

9

10

\_\_\_\_\_

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE