

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1030

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S. P. 310

In Senate, March 22, 1977

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Martin of Aroostook.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Provide Educational Benefits to Members of the Maine  
National Guard.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

37-A MRSA § 307 is enacted to read:

§ 307. National Guard Education Plan

Members of the National Guard certified as eligible by the director shall be admitted to state supported post-secondary schools or institutions of collegiate grade for  $\frac{1}{2}$  tuition subject to the following conditions:

1. Rules. The Bureau shall provide all forms and make any rules and regulations it considers necessary for carrying out this section. These rules shall include eligibility requirements.

2. Appropriations. The amount of appropriations needed to administer this section shall be determined from the recommendation of the director, who shall furnish estimates of the cost of carrying out this section in the same manner as other appropriations accruing to the bureau are handled.

3. Limitation in waiver. The waiver of  $\frac{1}{2}$  tuition shall not be utilized to the extent the eligible member qualifies for financial tuition assistance from some other source.

4. Eligibility. Eligibility for the  $\frac{1}{2}$  tuition waiver shall only apply to those members initiating a term of enlistment or becoming a member as a commissioned officer subsequent to the effective date of this section.

5. **Loss of eligibility.** Any member losing eligibility for  $\frac{1}{2}$  tuition waiver during the school term shall reimburse the institution affected for amounts lost by said tuition waiver.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would provide a tuition waiver of  $\frac{1}{2}$  the cost of tuition at state supported post-secondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade to qualified members of the Maine National Guard starting with those members joining the guard or extending obligations, either enlisted or officer, subsequent to the effective date of the Act. Its purpose is to provide a valuable benefit at a minimum cost in order to enhance the recruiting and retention effort both through new enlistments and reenlistments. In addition, it will enhance the educational qualifications and vocational skills of the National Guard as a whole, providing it more effective in meeting the military and civil assistance roles it is called upon to be prepared for.

A tuition waiver is a "revenue foregone" subsidy and not an actual accounting loss. In addition, the cost will be dependent upon the regulations promulgated by the Director of the Military Bureau and too speculative to determine at this time. A rough approximation would indicate less than \$10,000 cost.