

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R.O.S.

L.D. 2585

DATE: 3/23/2000

(Filing No. S-583)

LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 1017, L.D. 2585, Bill, "An Act to Provide Education Benefits For Maine National Guard Members"

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "~~\$387.~~" by striking out all of subsection 6 and inserting in its place the following:

'6. In-state tuition rates. Regardless of the state of residence, a member of the Maine National Guard who has met the requirements of this section and is attending a state postsecondary education institution qualifies for in-state tuition rates.'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2000-01

**DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

Military Educational Benefits

All Other \$341,026

Provides funds for the cost of tuition for eligible members of the Maine National Guard.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

2000-01

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund \$341,026

This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$341,026 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for the cost of tuition for eligible members of the Maine National Guard. This estimate is based on the equivalent of 150 Maine National Guard members who are currently participating in the federal education assistance program administered by the department and an average of 12 credit hours of tuition benefits for each of these students. If the number of guard members who qualify for tuition grant benefits and participate is greater, additional General Fund appropriations will be required. The amounts can not be determined at this time. The estimated future costs will be approximately \$467,026 and \$593,026 in fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively, based on approximately 200 and 250 guard members participating in fiscal years 2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively. These costs reflect the net General Fund costs and assume that the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management continues to receive the same level of federal funds for federal education assistance for National Guard members, estimated to be approximately \$37,000 annually.

Accepting in-state tuition rates for members of the Maine National Guard who are not residents of the State of Maine may result in minor reductions of revenue from tuition payments to the University of Maine System and Maine Maritime Academy.

Receiving tuition payments for waivers currently granted to Maine National Guard members by the Maine Technical College System will increase revenue to the system. This revenue is estimated to be approximately \$9,000 per academic year.'

SUMMARY

This amendment adds nonsubstantive, clarifying language to the bill. It also adds an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.