

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1126, L.D. 1533, Bill, "An Act To Create the Maine National Guard Education Assistance Program"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the National Guard Education Assistance Pilot Program has been extremely successful in attracting recruits to the Maine National Guard, and those recruits are using the existing funding at a rate higher than anticipated rate; and

Whereas, the National Guard Education Assistance Pilot Program has inadequate funds remaining in the accounts to pay tuition benefits for the upcoming summer sessions that begin in May 2003; and

Whereas, the Maine National Guard Education Assistance Pilot Program provides funding flexibility to the Adjutant General that allows the Adjutant General to utilize existing funds to meet the tuition needs for the upcoming summer session; and

Whereas, the Maine National Guard must have a viable education assistance program to maintain an adequate military force within the State; and

Whereas, once these soldiers and airmen earn their college

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

degrees they will further enhance the competitive labor force within the State of Maine; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

Further amend the bill in section 4 in that part designated "~~§353.~~" in the first paragraph in the 11th line (page 3, line 7 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "general funds" the following: 'i'

Further amend the bill in section 4 in that part designated "~~§353.~~" in the first paragraph in the 13th line (page 3, line 9 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "i"

Further amend the bill in section 4 in that part designated "~~§353.~~" in the first paragraph in the last line (page 3, line 11 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "tuition" the following: 'benefits'

Further amend the bill in section 4 in that part designated "~~§354.~~" by striking out all of the first paragraph (page 3, line 15 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'To qualify for the tuition benefit, the member must:'

Further amend the bill in section 4 in that part designated "~~§358.~~" in the first paragraph in the last line (page 5, line 2 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "August 15, 2003" and inserting in its place the following: 'May 1, 2003'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

'Sec. 5. Retroactivity. This Act applies retroactively to May 1, 2003.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.'

SUMMARY

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause and specifies that the bill applies retroactively to May 1, 2003 and covers school terms beginning on or after May 1,

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2 2003. The amendment also makes 2 technical corrections to the language regarding tuition benefits.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review

LD 1533

An Act To Create the Maine National Guard Education Assistance Program

LR 1890(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Legal and Veterans Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Undetermined current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Undetermined current biennium cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Undetermined current biennium cost increase - Federal Expenditure Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Authorizing through "notwithstanding" language, the use of any General Fund monies, several Other Special Revenue Funds accounts, as well as certain federal funds, to pay tuition costs incurred by the Maine National Guard Education Assistance Program will have an undetermined effect on these various funding sources. The amounts that may be used to cover the costs of the program will depend on competing priorities for the various funding sources and can not be determined at this time. No General Fund appropriations have been included as part of this bill. When this program was established on a pilot basis (Resolves 1999, c. 121), a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 was made in fiscal year 2000-01.