

HOUSE BILL NO. 233

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced: 4/4/97

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to education benefits for members of the Alaska National Guard,
2 Alaska Naval Militia, or Alaska Territorial Guard."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 26.05.295(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) Each active enlisted member of the Alaska National Guard or the Alaska
6 Naval Militia who has completed the initial voluntary enlistment period of service that
7 fulfills the mandatory requirement for military service under 50 U.S.C. App. 451 - 456,
8 458 - 471 (Military Selective Service Act of 1967) is [AND A PERSON WHO
9 SERVED IN THE ALASKA TERRITORIAL GUARD FOR 90 DAYS OR MORE OR
10 WHOSE SERVICE WAS FOR LESS THAN 90 DAYS BECAUSE OF INJURY OR
11 DISABILITY INCURRED IN THE LINE OF DUTY ARE] eligible for educational
12 assistance benefits in Alaska educational facilities. [NOTWITHSTANDING THE
13 REFERENCE TO MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS, EACH
14 ACTIVE ENLISTED FEMALE MEMBER IS FULLY ELIGIBLE FOR

1 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS UNDER THIS SECTION AFTER
2 COMPLETING SIX YEARS OF ENLISTED SERVICE.]

3 * **Sec. 2.** AS 26.05.295(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) **Except as provided in this subsection, educational** [EDUCATIONAL]
5 programs and monetary benefits available to persons under (a) of this section are based
6 on and equivalent to those of the federal Veterans Administration education program.
7 **Educational assistance may only be provided for a program or class in which the**
8 **person is a student in good standing.**

9 * **Sec. 3.** AS 26.05.296(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) To the extent funds are available, the adjutant general **may** [SHALL]
11 authorize the payment of **up to 100** [NOT MORE THAN 50] percent of the cost of
12 tuition and required fees for each active [OR RETIRED] member of the Alaska
13 National Guard or the Alaska Naval Militia [AND EACH PERSON WHO SERVED
14 IN THE ALASKA TERRITORIAL GUARD FOR 90 DAYS OR MORE OR WHOSE
15 ALASKA TERRITORIAL GUARD SERVICE WAS FOR LESS THAN 90 DAYS
16 BECAUSE OF INJURY OR DISABILITY INCURRED IN THE LINE OF DUTY,]
17 if the member [OR PERSON] attends an educational, vocational, or technical training
18 school in this state. **The adjutant general may prioritize categories of education**
19 **benefits to encourage recruitment and retention of Alaska National Guard**
20 **members.** Payments authorized under this section for active [OR RETIRED] members
21 of the Alaska National Guard or the Alaska Naval Militia continue so long as the
22 active member **is a student in good standing in the educational program or class**
23 **and** participates satisfactorily in unit training activities [OR A RETIRED MEMBER
24 IS ON THE RETIRED LIST AND PURSUES THE COURSE OF STUDY IN A
25 MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO THE SCHOOL. PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED
26 UNDER THIS SECTION FOR PERSONS WHO SERVED IN THE ALASKA
27 TERRITORIAL GUARD CONTINUE AS LONG AS THE PERSON PURSUES THE
28 COURSE OF STUDY IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO THE SCHOOL].

29 * **Sec. 4.** AS 26.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

30 **Sec. 26.05.298. Definition for AS 26.05.295 and 26.05.296.** In AS 26.05.295
31 and 26.05.296, "good standing" means the student is enrolled, attending, and meeting

1 the minimum requirements for successful completion of the program or class.

2 * **Sec. 5.** AS 26.05.295(c), 26.05.295(d), and 26.05.296(b) are repealed.