

SENATE BILL NO. 143

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/19/97

Referred: State 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 reference to
13 mandatory military service requirements, each active enlisted female member is fully
14 eligible for educational assistance benefits under this section after completing six years

1 of enlisted service.

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

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

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

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

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

29 **Sec. 26.05.298. Definition for AS 26.05.295 and 26.05.296.** In AS 26.05.295
 30 and 26.05.296, "good standing" means the student is enrolled, attending, and meeting
 31 the minimum requirements for successful completion of the program or class.

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