

Introduced: 5/23/77
Referred: Health Education and
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BRADLEY

2 SENATE BILL NO. 368

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska veterans education pro-
7 gram; and providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. During World War II, Alaska was the only United States
10 territory that was invaded by the enemy, and the Alaska guardsmen and World
11 War II veterans represented our first line of defense. Then during Korea and
12 Viet Nam our state was used as a major military staging area, and at any
13 given moment could have come under attack and become the first line of
14 defense for the United States again. Our state guardsmen and veterans have
15 given of themselves to protect our shores and should receive recognition for
16 their honorable service. The legislature finds and declares that the state
17 has a responsibility to increase the availability of education and training
18 programs for Alaska guardsmen, veterans, and their dependents. The high cost
19 of living in Alaska discourages our veterans and servicemen from using their
20 federal educational grant funds in the state to attend Alaskan colleges and
21 universities. The legislature in this Act seeks to provide an incentive for
22 such persons to remain in the state.

23 * Sec. 2. AS 14.40 is amended by adding new sections to read:

24 ARTICLE 13. ALASKA VETERANS EDUCATION PROGRAM.

25 Sec. 14.40.930. ESTABLISHMENT. There is established the Alaska
26 veterans education program to provide education and training program
27 grants for Alaskan guardsmen, veterans, and their dependents.

28 Sec. 14.40.940. ADMINISTRATION. The Alaska veterans education
29 program shall be administered by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary

1 Education in accordance with the provisions of secs. 930 - 970 of this
2 chapter. The commission shall promulgate regulations to implement the
3 program.

4 Sec. 14.40.950. CONDITIONS OF GRANT. (a) Grants made under secs.
5 930 - 970 of this chapter shall be in amounts sufficient to pay for the
6 tuition of the recipient, for the period of time to which he is entitled
7 under (b) of this section, at a career education program, college, or
8 university in the state which is approved by the Alaska Commission on
9 Postsecondary Education. Proceeds from grants may only be used to pay
10 tuition costs. To obtain and maintain a grant the student shall be
11 enrolled as a full-time student in good standing in an approved career
12 education program, college, or university in the state.

13 (b) Alaska veteran grant entitlements shall be determined as
14 follows:

15 (1) A guardsman or veteran, or the dependent of a guardsman
16 or veteran, with 18 months or less of honorable active duty service or a
17 person, or the dependent of a person, on active duty who has been
18 disabled during active duty is entitled to a full-time educational or
19 training program grant for a period of up to 36 months computed on the
20 basis of one and one-half months for each month of service on active
21 duty.

22 (2) A guardsman or veteran, or the dependent of a guardsman
23 or veteran, who has served a continuous period of more than 18 months of
24 honorable active duty and who has been released or separated from that
25 service under conditions that satisfied his active duty obligation is
26 entitled to a full-time educational or training program grant for a
27 period of 45 months.

28 (c) The guardsman or veteran or his dependent may use the entitle-
29 ment at any time during the 10-year period following the discharge of

1 the guardsman or veteran or before January 1, 1988, whichever date is
2 later.

3 Sec. 14.40.960. ELIGIBILITY. (a) A person is eligible for a
4 grant under secs. 930 - 970 of this chapter if

5 (1) he has served in the armed forces, or as an Alaska
6 guardsman of the United States, at any time since December 16, 1940;

7 (2) if discharged, he was separated from the armed forces or
8 the Alaska National Guard with an honorable discharge or honorable
9 separation;

10 (3) at the time of induction into the service, or becoming a
11 member of the Alaska National Guard, he was a resident of the Territory
12 or State of Alaska and had been a resident for not less than one year
13 immediately before his induction;

14 (4) if discharged, he has returned to the territory or state
15 after discharge with the intention of remaining in the state.

16 (b) A dependent spouse or child of a person described in (a) of
17 this section who has been a resident of the state for at least one year
18 and who intends to remain in the state is eligible for a grant in an
19 amount determined under sec. 950(b) of this chapter unless the dependent
20 is entitled to free tuition under sec. 920 of this chapter.

21 Sec. 14.40.970. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of secs. 930 - 970 of
22 this chapter, "guardsman" means a member of the Alaska National Guard.

23 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1978.