

**HB**

**412**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: HB 412  
(H) Publish Date: 2/15/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Military & Veterans Affairs  
Title: Tuition Waivers: Military/Police/Fire RDU: Military & Veterans Affairs  
Sponsor: Representative Ramras Component: Office of the Commissioner  
Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component No.: 414

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

**ANALYSIS:**

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: John Cramer  
Division: Administrative Services Division  
Approved by: Craig E. Campbell, Commissioner  
Agency: Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Phone: (907) 465-4002  
Date/Time: 1/31/06 10:00 AM  
Date: 1/31/2006

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 412(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/24/06  
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES RAMRAS, Stoltze, Crawford, Lynn

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the waiver of undergraduate expenses for a spouse or dependent  
2 child of a deceased resident peace officer or member of the armed services, a fire  
3 department, or an ambulance or first responder service."

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

5 \* Section 1. AS 14.43.085(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) A person enrolled as a student in good standing in a state supported  
7 educational institution in this state is entitled to a waiver of undergraduate tuition,  
8 [AND] fees, and on-campus room and board costs for a period of up to five years  
9 if the person was the spouse or dependent child of a bona fide resident of the state who  
10 was

11 (1) a member of the armed services and who died in the line of duty or  
12 who died as a result of injuries sustained while in the line of duty for the state or  
13 federal government or who was listed by the United States Department of Defense as a  
14 prisoner of war or as missing in action; or

1                   (2) a peace officer or a member of a fire department, ambulance  
2 service, or first responder service who died from an act arising out of and in the  
3 course of

4                   (A) employment as a peace officer or a fire fighter; [OR]

5                   (B) duties as a volunteer fire fighter; or

6                   (C) duties as an ambulance service or first responder  
7 service provider.

8       \* Sec. 2. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
9 read:

10           REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION. The revisor of statutes is instructed to change the catch  
11 line of AS 14.43.085 to take into account the changes made by sec. 1 of this Act.

Representative Jay Ramras  
Co-Chair, House Resources  
Co-Chair, Economic Develop.  
Tourism & Trade  
House State Affairs  
Joint Armed Services  
119 N. Cushman St. Suite 207  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
Phone: (907) 452-1088  
Fax: (907) 452-1146

## Alaska State Legislature



While in Session  
State Capitol, Room 104  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465- 3004  
Fax: 465-2070  
Toll Free: (877) 465-3004

House District 10

### House of Representatives

## Sponsor Statement CSHB 412

Everyday, we enjoy the freedoms and security granted to us by our Constitution and laws. These rights, that so many take for granted, are there because men and women work everyday to assure they are protected. Alaskans who put on a uniform and put their life on the line, be it a police officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a member of the armed services deserve our respect and support.

When they give the ultimate sacrifice to protect us, we as Alaskans have an obligation to help their families, in more than just the short term. Most families, have not only lost a spouse or a parent, they have lost a major source of income. CSHB 412 will offer these surviving family members an opportunity to advance their lives by attending the University of Alaska for a very reduced cost.

Existing language in AS 14.43.085 allows a waiver of fees and tuition. CSHB 412 expands that language to include on-campus room and board. The cost to the State and the University is small when compared to the price of giving ones life in service to our state and country.

By combining these cost reductions with the limited compensation the Federal Government provides military families, an Alaskan student could receive up to five years of a University of Alaska education at little or no expense. CSHB 412 will show our men and women who selflessly give of themselves that we support them, not only while they serve, but we will also be there should they make the ultimate sacrifice.

## **Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 2005 Edition**

### **Department of Veterans Affairs**

#### **Dependents Educational Assistance**

Dependents Educational Assistance benefits are available to spouses who have not remarried and children of: (1) veterans who died or are permanently and totally disabled as the result of a disability arising from active military service; (2) veterans who died from any cause while rated permanently and totally disabled from service-connected disability; (3) servicemembers listed for more than 90 days as currently missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force; (4) servicemembers listed for more than 90 days as currently detained or interned by a foreign government or power.

The termination of a surviving spouse's remarriage — either by death or divorce — will reinstate Dependents' Educational Assistance benefits to the surviving spouse. If a surviving spouse ceases living with another person who has been held out publicly as the person's spouse, there is no bar to granting Dependents Educational Assistance benefits to the surviving spouse.

Benefits may be awarded for pursuit of associate, bachelor or graduate degrees at colleges and universities, including independent study, cooperative training and study abroad programs. Courses leading to a certificate or diploma from business, technical or vocational schools also may be taken.

Benefits may be awarded for apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs and farm cooperative courses. Benefits for correspondence courses under certain conditions are available to spouses only. Secondary-school programs may be pursued if the individual is not a high-school graduate. An individual with a deficiency in a subject may receive tutorial assistance benefits if enrolled halftime or more. Deficiency, refresher and other training also may be available.

#### **Monthly Payments**

Payments are made monthly. The rate effective Oct. 1, 2004, is \$803 a month for full-time school attendance, with lesser amounts for part-time training. A person may receive educational assistance for full-time training for up to 45 months or the equivalent in part-time training. Payments to a spouse end 10 years from the date the individual is found eligible or from the date of the death of the veteran.

VA may grant an extension. Children generally must be between the ages of 18 and 26 to receive education benefits, though extensions may be granted.

#### **Montgomery GI Bill Death Benefit**

VA will pay a special Montgomery GI Bill death benefit to a designated survivor in the event of the service-connected death of an individual while on active duty or within one year after discharge or release. The deceased must either have been entitled to educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill program or a participant in the program who would have been so entitled but for the high school diploma or length-of-service requirement. The amount paid will be equal to the participant's actual military pay reduction, less any education benefits paid.

## Examples of State Educational Benefits for Spouses and Children

---

### California (CA)

College fee waiver program to children and dependents of service-connected disabled or service-related deceased veterans. The program is administered by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA)

**ELIGIBILITY:** Three plans for eligibility - Child, Spouse, Dependant

**BENEFITS:**

Fee waivers applies only to California State Universities, University of California campuses, and California Community Colleges. Annual benefits awarded on "academic year" basis. Students required to reapply each year for continued benefits.

---

### Oregon

**ELIGIBILITY:** Oregon State requirements for offering aid to veterans are:

1. Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for not less than 90 days and Korean War service 6/25/50 and 1/31/55, or received campaign or expeditionary medal, or ribbon awarded by the U.S. Armed Forces for service after 6/30/58;
2. Separation from military service under honorable conditions;
3. OR a resident at time of application for benefits;
4. U.S. Citizen; 5. Educational aid is not available for courses you would be receiving Federal GI Bill or Vocational Rehabilitation benefits

**BENEFITS:**

Rate of \$50 per month for full-time undergraduate studies; or other studies at \$35 per month.

## **Washington**

- Honorably discharged veterans who have served in any branch of the armed forces may be eligible for the following state benefits:

Educational Benefits  
County Veterans Assistance/Burial  
Homeless Veteran Program  
Employment Preference  
Reemployment and Layoff Rights  
Military Retirement Credit  
Motor Vehicle Licenses  
Reduced Fishing/Hunting License Fees  
State and Federal Park Passes  
Documents and Public Records  
Reduced Public Transportation Fees

## **Hawaii**

Currently the Hawaiian State Office of Veteran Services does not offer education assistance programs.

## **Iowa**

### **Iowa War Orphans Education Aid**

Children of veteran parents who died as a result of service between: 4/6/17 and 6/2/21; 9/16/40 and 12/31/46; 6/25/50 and 1/31/55; 8/5/64 and 5/7/75; or 8/2/90 (all dates inclusive). Iowa resident for two years. Reserve components on active duty status and National Guardsmen on active duty included.

#### **BENEFITS:**

\$600 maximum per year for tuition, matriculation and other fees, books, supplies, board, room, and other expenses at any IA education institution or trade school approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs Division (in addition to federal government benefits). Maximum total \$3,000 per student. No income or age limitations.

## **Minnesota**

### **War Orphan Education Program**

This program serves children of Minnesota veterans who died while on active duty military service or as a result of injuries or disease incurred while on active duty military service. Children are eligible for "tuition free status" at any state college level institution except the University of Minnesota. In addition, \$350.00 per year is available for school related expenses.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:** The deceased veteran parent must have been a resident at the time of entry into active duty military service and the dependent child must have been a resident for two years immediately prior to application.

## **Montana**

### **Children of deceased Veterans**

**Eligibility:** Children of MT residents deceased from service in WWII, Korea, or Vietnam

**Program Benefits:** Waiver of fees (depends on tuition at the school) These fee waivers are only available at: Montana State University at Billings, Bozeman, and Northern; the University of Montana at Missoula; Montana Tech of the University of Montana, the University of Montana College of Technology at Missoula; Western Montana College of the University of Montana; Montana State University College of Technology at Billings and Great Falls; and Helena College of Technology of the The University of Montana.

### **Fee waiver for Honorably discharged Veterans**

**Eligibility:** Honorably discharged MT residents who served during wartime and are ineligible for financial aid under federal laws:

**Program Benefits:** Waiver of fees (depends on tuition at the school) These fee waivers are only available at: Montana State University at Billings, Bozeman, and Northern; the University of Montana at Missoula; Montana Tech of the University of Montana, the University of Montana College of Technology at Missoula; Western Montana College of the University of Montana; Montana State University College of Technology at Billings and Great Falls; and Helena College of Technology of the The University of Montana.

### **Dependents of POW/MIAs**

**Eligibility:** Dependent of MT resident who has been declared by SECDEF to be a POW, missing or captured in connection with the conflict in Southeast Asia after 1/1/91

**Program Benefits:** Waiver of fees (depends on tuition at the school) These fee waivers are only available at: Montana State University at Billings, Bozeman, and Northern; the University of Montana at Missoula; Montana Tech of the University of Montana, the University of Montana College of Technology at Missoula; Western Montana College of the University of Montana; Montana State University College of Technology at Billings and Great Falls; and Helena College of Technology of the The University of Montana.

## **North Dakota**

### **Dependent Children**

Eligibility: Dependent Children, spouse, widow or ND resident veteran who was Killed in Action, died from wounds, or any other service connected causes, was totally disabled or died as a result of service connected causes, or was a POW/MIA. The veteran must have been born in and lived in ND until entrance into the U.S. Armed Forces or must have resided within the state for at least six months prior to entrance into the service.

Benefits: Free tuition and fees to any state supported school of higher education including vocational and technical schools to obtain bachelor's degree or certificate of completion. Maximum is 36 months or 8 semester period. Veteran must have been born in or lived in ND until entrance into the U.S. Armed Forces or must have resided within the state for at least 6 months prior to entrance into military service.

### **Veteran Emergency Loans**

Eligibility: Loans to eligible ND resident veterans for temporary financial emergencies may be granted to honorably discharged veterans in amounts up to \$2,000.

Program Benefits: 8% interest is charge. One half of interest is refunded if loan is repaid within period loan was granted. Loan can be granted for periods of 6 to 48 months.

Application: North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, PO Box 9003, Fargo, ND 58106-9003

## **South Dakota**

### **Free Tuition for Veterans**

Certain veterans are eligible to take undergraduate courses at a state university without the payment of tuition provided: they are not eligible for educational payments under the GI Bill or any other federal educational program. To qualify the veteran must be:

- Discharged under Honorable conditions, and
- A current resident of South Dakota and qualify for in-state tuition, and
- Able to meet one of the following criteria:
  - Served on active duty at any time between August 2, 1990 and March 3, 1991.
  - Received an Armed Forces Expeditionary medal, Southwest Asia Service medal, or other United States campaign or service medal for participation in combat operations against hostile forces outside the boundaries of the United States.
  - Have a service connected disability rated 10%, or more, disabling.

Eligible veterans may receive one month of free tuition for each month of "qualifying service" with a minimum of one, up to a maximum of four, academic years. Qualifying service is defined as: the amount of time served on active duty between the beginning and ending dates of the particular period of conflict or hostilities during which the veteran earned eligibility for this program. Since all of the post-Vietnam conflicts have been very

short in duration, the majority of veterans who qualify will be entitled to only the minimum, one academic year, of free tuition.

Under the free tuition program, the veteran has twenty (20) years from the ending date of the specific period of service during which he or she served and met the eligibility criteria, or, twenty (20) years after the date that he or she was rated 10%, or more, disabled by the DVA.

**EXAMPLE:** A veteran earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal for serving in Grenada in October 1983. As the hostilities in Grenada were declared to have ceased as of November 21, 1983, the veteran has until November 21, 2003, to use the free tuition program.

SDDVA form E-11 "Veterans Application for Free Tuition at State Supported Schools" is available at the schools' financial aids, veterans representative or registrars offices or, they can be obtained from the Division of Veterans Affairs. The completed application, along with a copy of the veteran's DD-214 must be submitted to the Sioux Falls VA Regional Office (address shown on the reverse side of the form) and then returned to the school.

#### **Free Tuition for Children of Veterans Who Die During Service**

Children who are under the age of 25, are residents of South Dakota, and whose mother or father was killed in action or died of other causes while on active duty, are eligible for free tuition at a state supported school, if the deceased parent was a bona-fide resident of this state for at least six (6) months immediately preceding entry into active service.

SDDVA form E-12 "Application for Free Tuition at State Supported Institutions" is available at the schools' financial aids, veterans representative or registrars offices or, they can be obtained from the Division of Veterans Affairs.

#### **Free Tuition for Dependents of POW's and MIA's**

Children and spouses of prisoners of war, or of persons listed as missing in action, are entitled to attend a state supported school without the payment of tuition or mandatory fees provided they are not eligible for equal or greater federal benefits.

SDDVA form E-12 "Application for Free Tuition at State Supported Institutions" is available at the schools' financial aids, veterans representative or registrars offices or, they can be obtained from the Division of Veterans Affairs.

#### **Reduced Tuition for South Dakota National Guardmembers**

Guard members, who meet the requirements for admission, are eligible for a fifty percent (50%) reduction in undergraduate tuition charges at any state supported school for up to a maximum of four academic years OR, one program of study, approved by the state Board of Education, at any state vocational school upon payment of fifty percent (50%) of the tuition charges.

The receipt of federal educational benefits does not affect eligibility for this program. To qualify the guardmember must:

1. be a resident of this state and a member of the SD Army or Air Guard throughout each semester or vocational program for which he or she applies for benefits.
2. have completed required active duty for training.
3. attend 90% of drills and training periods and maintain a satisfactory academic grade level.
4. provide proper notice to the institution at time of registration for the term in which benefits are sought.

## **Wisconsin**

### **Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Grant**

Veterans who were discharged from active duty within the last 10 years may be reimbursed for up to 50% of their tuition and fees for courses completed as an undergraduate at schools in the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System. Reimbursement may not exceed 50% of the cost of tuition and fees for equivalent credits at UW-Madison.

Wisconsin veterans who receive a waiver of non-resident tuition while attending a school in Minnesota also may qualify for reimbursement.

Veterans with a service-connected disability rated by the VA as 30 percent or higher may be reimbursed for up to 100% of their tuition and fees at qualifying schools. Reimbursement may not exceed 100% of the cost of tuition and fees for equivalent credits at UW-Madison. Spouses and dependent children of deceased veterans are not eligible for this grant.

The semester for which a reimbursement grant is requested must end within 10 years after the veteran's release date from active duty. Veterans may receive grants for a total of eight full-time semesters or 120 credits of part-time study (no more than half of the total may have been taken at technical system schools).

The grant application must be received by WDVA no later than 60 days after the completion of the semester.

Veterans who receive a Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Grant are not allowed a Part-Time Study Grant or Retraining Grant for the same semester.

Income limit --- the veteran and spouse's combined annual income may not exceed \$47,500 plus \$500 for each dependent in excess of two dependents.

Veterans may apply for the grant at their County Veterans Service Office. Or write: Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs PO Box 7843 30 W. Mifflin St. Madison, WI 53703-7843 phone: (608) 266-1311 or toll-free 1-800-947-8387 (WIS-VETS)

### **Part-Time Study Grants**

Veterans may be reimbursed for up to 50% of tuition and fees (not to exceed the cost at UW-Madison for the same number of undergraduate credits) after successfully completing part-time classroom or correspondence courses at most Wisconsin schools. Veterans with a service-connected disability rated by the VA as 30 percent or higher may be reimbursed for up to 100% of their tuition and fees at qualifying schools (not to exceed the cost at UW-Madison for the same number of undergraduate credits)..

In some instances, spouses and dependent children of deceased Wisconsin veterans also may be eligible for this grant.

To qualify as a part-time student, undergraduates must carry 11 credits or less per semester, and students with a bachelor's degree must carry eight credits or less per semester. Students enrolled in a summer session are automatically classified as part-time by WDVA.

Part-time students with a bachelor's degree may qualify for the grant if they do not have remaining federal veterans' benefits (not including Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserves).. Those with a master's degree or its equivalent do not qualify for grants.

The part-time coursework must be related to the applicant's occupational, professional or employment objectives. Courses taken solely for personal edification do not qualify for reimbursement.

Part-time students attending out-of-state schools may qualify for the grant if the school is accredited by the U.S. Office of Education and is within 50 miles of the Wisconsin border and the course is not offered at a Wisconsin school within 50 miles of the student's residence. Out-of-state correspondence courses may qualify for reimbursement if the school is accredited by the U.S. Office of Education and the course is not offered by a Wisconsin school.

The grant application must be received by WDVA no later than 60 days after the completion of the course.

Applicants who receive a Part-Time Study Grant are not allowed a Retraining Grant or Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Grant for the same period of enrollment. Applicants may receive no more than four Part-Time Study Grants during a 12-month period.

Income limit --- the veteran and spouse's combined annual income may not exceed \$47,500 plus \$500 for each dependent in excess of two dependents.

Veterans may apply for the grant through their County Veterans Service Office. You may call or write: Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs PO Box 7843 30 W. Mifflin St. Madison, WI 53703-7843 phone: (608) 266-1311 or toll-free 1-800-947-8387 (WIS-VETS)

#### **Dependents of Deceased Veterans**

Eligibility: Widow (er)s, minor or dependent children of eligible deceased WI veterans of any war, if residents and living in WI at the time of application. Children remain eligible if widow(er) remarries. Eligibility is determined by state statute. Income limit --- the veteran and spouse's combined annual income may not exceed \$47,500 plus \$500 for each dependent in excess of two dependents

Benefits: Reimbursement of costs for tuition, fees, and required textbooks upon satisfactory completion of part-time classroom correspondence course(s) at university, college, vocational, technical institute, or other institution of higher education as defined by WI statute, section 39.32(1)(a), provided the course(s) are related to the students occupational, professional, or educational objective. Reimbursement is limited to \$300 per course up to \$1,100 during any fiscal year. As long as the student continues to meet program requirements, reimbursement can be provided until Masters or Masters-equivalent Degree is obtained.

For more information

Your County Veterans Service Office will help with eligibility questions and the application process. For more information and questions about these programs, contact [cschulde@mail.state.wi.us](mailto:cschulde@mail.state.wi.us).

You may call or write: Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs PO Box 7843 30 W. Mifflin St. Madison, WI 53703-7843 phone: (608) 266-1311 or toll-free 1-800-947-8387 (WIS-VETS)

#### **National Guard Tuition Grant for Enlisted Members**

Eligibility: National Guard Tuition Grant for Enlisted Members

Benefits: For in-state or out of state institutions approved by the Higher Education Aids Board. Reimburses up to one-fourth of students tuition costs. Grant limited to no more than eight full semesters of studying and no grant shall be more than 25% of the resident undergraduate tuition charged by the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Application: Contact your local National Guard Unit Authority.

## Where do you want to go to college? How much does it cost?

Getting an early handle on this will help you figure out how much you'll need to save, earn or borrow.

The table gives you an idea of how much it costs to attend *one year at a four-year college*. In addition, you'll also have to budget for books, miscellaneous expenses and travel. Going to an in-state college costs less, since you are paying resident tuition and usually do not have to travel as far.

	Tuition and Fees	Room and Board	Total
<b>University of Alaska</b>	\$4,286	\$5,587	\$9,873
<b>University of Washington</b>	\$19,907	\$8,424	\$28,331
<b>University of California Los Angeles</b>	\$24,882	\$10,880	\$35,762
<b>Montana State University Bozeman</b>	\$14,190	\$5,500	\$19,690
<b>Gonzaga University Spokane WA</b>	\$23,140	\$3,895	\$27,035

*Tuition and fees are averages. Out-of-state averages are based on non-resident prices.*

Source: <http://info.Alaska.edu/gotocollege/costs.xml> University of Alaska Website