

HB3234



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3234

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Bradley Fritts

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 105/5.569
110 ILCS 947/45

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that any person who has served at least one year in the Army Reserves and who possesses all necessary entrance requirements shall, upon application and proper proof, be awarded a grant to the State-controlled university or community college of his or her choice, consisting of exemption from tuition and fees for not more than the equivalent of 4 years of full-time enrollment in relation to his or her course of study at that State-controlled university or community college while he or she is a member of the Army Reserves. Renames the National Guard and Naval Militia Grant Fund to the National Guard, Naval Militia, and Army Reserves Grant Fund. Makes a conforming change in the State Finance Act.

LRB104 08762 LNS 18816 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by changing
5 Section 5.569 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.569)

7 Sec. 5.569. The National Guard, ~~and~~ Naval Militia, and
8 Army Reserves Grant Fund.

9 (Source: P.A. 94-1020, eff. 7-11-06.)

10 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
11 amended by changing Section 45 as follows:

12 (110 ILCS 947/45)

13 Sec. 45. Illinois National Guard, ~~and~~ Naval Militia, and
14 Army Reserves grant program.

15 (a) As used in this Section:

16 "State controlled university or community college" means
17 those institutions under the administration of the Chicago
18 State University Board of Trustees, the Eastern Illinois
19 University Board of Trustees, the Governors State University
20 Board of Trustees, the Illinois State University Board of
21 Trustees, the Northeastern Illinois University Board of

1 Trustees, the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees,
2 the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees, Southern
3 Illinois University Board of Trustees, University of Illinois
4 Board of Trustees, or the Illinois Community College Board.

5 "Tuition and fees" shall not include expenses for any
6 sectarian or denominational instruction, the construction or
7 maintenance of sectarian or denominational facilities, or any
8 other sectarian or denominational purposes or activity.

9 "Fees" means matriculation, graduation, activity, term, or
10 incidental fees. Exemption shall not be granted from any other
11 fees, including book rental, service, laboratory, supply, and
12 union building fees, hospital and medical insurance fees, and
13 any fees established for the operation and maintenance of
14 buildings, the income of which is pledged to the payment of
15 interest and principal on bonds issued by the governing board
16 of any university or community college.

17 (b) Any person who has served at least one year in the
18 Illinois National Guard, ~~or~~ the Illinois Naval Militia, or the
19 Army Reserves and who possesses all necessary entrance
20 requirements shall, upon application and proper proof, be
21 awarded a grant to the State-controlled university or
22 community college of his or her choice, consisting of
23 exemption from tuition and fees for not more than the
24 equivalent of 4 years of full-time enrollment, including
25 summer terms, in relation to his or her course of study at that
26 State controlled university or community college while he or

1 she is a member of the Illinois National Guard, ~~or~~ the Illinois
2 Naval Militia, or the Army Reserves. Beginning with the
3 2013-2014 academic year, any person who has served over 10
4 years in the Illinois National Guard shall be awarded an
5 additional grant to the State-controlled university or
6 community college of his or her choice, consisting of an
7 exemption from tuition and fees for not more than the
8 equivalent of an additional 2 years of full-time enrollment,
9 including summer terms. Except as otherwise provided in this
10 Section, if the recipient of any grant awarded under this
11 Section ceases to be a member of the Illinois National Guard,
12 ~~or~~ the Illinois Naval Militia, or the Army Reserves while
13 enrolled in a course of study under that grant, the grant shall
14 be terminated as of the date membership in the Illinois
15 National Guard, ~~or~~ the Illinois Naval Militia, or the Army
16 Reserves ended, and the recipient shall be permitted to
17 complete the school term in which he or she is then enrolled
18 only upon payment of tuition and other fees allocable to the
19 part of the term then remaining. If the recipient of a grant
20 awarded under this Section ceases to be a member of the
21 Illinois National Guard, ~~or~~ the Illinois Naval Militia, or the
22 Army Reserves while enrolled in a course of study under that
23 grant but (i) has served in the Illinois National Guard, ~~or~~ the
24 Illinois Naval Militia, or the Army Reserves for at least 5
25 years and (ii) has served a cumulative total of at least 6
26 months of active duty, then that recipient shall continue to

1 be eligible for a grant for one year after membership in the
2 Illinois National Guard, ~~or~~ the Illinois Naval Militia, or the
3 Army Reserves ended, provided that the recipient has not
4 already received the exemption from tuition and fees for the
5 equivalent of 4 years of full-time enrollment, including
6 summer terms, under this Section. If the recipient of the
7 grant fails to complete his or her military service
8 obligations or requirements for satisfactory participation,
9 the Department of Military Affairs shall require the recipient
10 to repay the amount of the grant received, prorated according
11 to the fraction of the service obligation not completed, and,
12 if applicable, reasonable collection fees. The Department of
13 Military Affairs may adopt rules relating to its collection
14 activities for repayment of the grant under this Section.
15 Unsatisfactory participation shall be defined by rules adopted
16 by the Department of Military Affairs. Repayments shall be
17 deposited in the National Guard, ~~and~~ Naval Militia Grant, and
18 Army Reserves Fund. The National Guard, ~~and~~ Naval Militia, and
19 Army Reserves Grant Fund is created as a special fund in the
20 State treasury. All money in the National Guard, ~~and~~ Naval
21 Militia, and Army Reserves Grant Fund shall be used, subject
22 to appropriation, by the Illinois Student Assistance
23 Commission for the purposes of this Section.

24 A grant awarded under this Section shall be considered an
25 entitlement which the State-controlled university or community
26 college in which the holder is enrolled shall honor without

1 any condition other than the holder's maintenance of minimum
2 grade levels and a satisfactory student loan repayment record
3 pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 20 of this Act.

4 (c) Subject to a separate appropriation for such purposes,
5 the Commission may reimburse the State-controlled university
6 or community college for grants authorized by this Section.

7 (Source: P.A. 98-314, eff. 8-12-13.)