

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1081 Session of 2006

INTRODUCED BY ROBBINS, D. WHITE, PIPPY, FONTANA, WENGER, PUNT, JUBELIRER, O'PAKE, THOMPSON, LEMMOND, A. WILLIAMS, TOMLINSON, CORMAN, C. WILLIAMS, ERICKSON, M. WHITE, TARTAGLIONE, EARLL, PILEGGI, BOSCOLA, ORIE, GREENLEAF, GORDNER, MUSTO, KITCHEN, MELLOW, RHOADES, RAFFERTY, WAUGH, SCARNATI, WONDERLING, FERLO, KASUNIC, PICCOLA, COSTA, REGOLA AND ARMSTRONG, JANUARY 23, 2006

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, FEBRUARY 8, 2006

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, ~~defining "combat zone"; and further~~ ←
3 providing for limitations and eligibility in educational
4 assistance program.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 3202 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 3202. Eligibility.

10 (a) General rule.--A Pennsylvania National Guard member is
11 eligible to receive a public service educational grant under
12 this chapter if the member meets all of the following
13 eligibility criteria:

14 (1) The member is a qualified resident of this
15 Commonwealth.

16 (2) [The] Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)

1 and section 3206(b)(relating to limitations), the member is a
2 member in good standing and has been a satisfactory
3 participant in Pennsylvania National Guard activities for a
4 minimum service period established by the Adjutant General.

5 (3) The member has enrolled as a student in an approved
6 program of education at an approved institution of higher
7 learning.

8 (b) Additional eligibility criteria for full-time student
9 assistance grants.--In addition to the eligibility criteria
10 specified in subsection (a), a student must meet the following
11 eligibility criteria to qualify for a full-time student
12 assistance grant:

13 (1) The member does not possess a baccalaureate degree.

14 (2) The member accepts an obligation to serve in the
15 Pennsylvania National Guard for a period of six years from
16 the date of entry into the program by enlistment,
17 reenlistment, extension of enlistment or execution of a
18 service commitment.

19 (3) The member has enrolled as a full-time student in an
20 approved program of education at an approved institution of
21 higher learning.

22 (4) The member is not receiving a Reserve Officer
23 Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarship, excluding a Guaranteed
24 Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship.

25 (c) Discharge for disability incurred in the line of duty.--
26 A Pennsylvania National Guard member who is discharged for
27 medical disability after September 11, 2001, shall remain
28 eligible to receive a public service educational grant under
29 this chapter if the member meets all of the following
30 eligibility criteria:

1 (1) The medical disability was incurred in the line of
2 duty and was not the result of misconduct.

3 (2) The medical condition giving rise to the discharge
4 did not exist prior to the member entering service in the
5 Pennsylvania National Guard.

6 (3) The medical disability was incurred while performing
7 authorized military duty other than basic training, advanced
8 individual training or other equivalent initial training.

9 (4) The former member received an honorable discharge
10 for medical reasons.

11 (5) The former member had accepted an obligation to
12 serve in the Pennsylvania National Guard for a minimum period
13 of service established by the Adjutant General and was
14 qualified to have fulfilled such service obligation but for
15 the medical disability that resulted in discharge.

16 (6) The former member commences a full-time or part-time
17 course of study within two years of medical discharge or
18 within two years of the effective date of this subsection,
19 such course of study having a completion date of not more
20 than six years following the date of medical discharge for
21 members discharged for medical disability on or after the
22 effective date of this subsection, or of not more than six
23 years following the effective date of this subsection for
24 members discharged for a medical disability after September
25 11, 2001, and before the effective date of this subsection.
26 The Adjutant General may for good cause extend these
27 deadlines when the former member's disability is shown to
28 require additional time for the former member to commence or
29 complete a course of study.

30 (7) The former member meets all eligibility criteria

1 specified in subsections (a) and (b) except membership in the
2 Pennsylvania National Guard.

3 Section 2. Section 3206(b) of Title 51, amended December 22,
4 2005 (P.L.441, No.82), is amended to read:

5 § 3206. Limitations.

6 * * *

7 (b) Active duty.--

8 (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) or
9 (3), no grant payments shall be made under this chapter
10 except during the eligible member's term of service as a
11 member in good standing of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

12 (2) For eligible members who were called or ordered to
13 active Federal service or active State duty under section 508
14 (relating to active State duty for emergency) after September
15 11, 2001, the deadline for making grant payments shall be
16 extended for one additional month for each month or part of
17 month of such service after the member is discharged or
18 released under honorable conditions from the Pennsylvania
19 National Guard.

20 (3) For members discharged because of a disability
21 incurred in the line of duty who are eligible under section
22 3202(c) (relating to eligibility), the deadline for making
23 grant payments shall be:

24 (i) Six years after the member's medical discharge
25 for members discharged for a medical disability on or
26 after the effective date of this paragraph UNLESS ←
27 EXTENDED UNDER SECTION 3202 (C)(6).

28 (ii) Six years following the effective date of this
29 paragraph for members discharged for a medical disability
30 after September 11, 2001, and before the effective date

1 of this paragraph UNLESS EXTENDED UNDER SECTION 3202
2 (C)(6).

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3 Section 3. The amendment or addition of 51 Pa.C.S. §§
4 3202(a) and (c) and 3206(b) shall apply to grants awarded for
5 any course of study commenced on or after May 1, 2006.

6 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.