

1 SB33  
2 164460-1  
3 By Senator Dial  
4 RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs  
5 First Read: 03-MAR-15  
6 PFD: 02/13/2015

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the National Guard  
9 Educational Assistance Act authorizes the Alabama  
10 Commission on Higher Education to pay instate  
11 tuition costs for certain qualified members of the  
12 Alabama National Guard.

13 This bill would revise the definition of  
14 tuition for purposes of the act.

15 This bill would also require applicants for  
16 a tuition grant to complete a Free Application for  
17 Student Financial Aid (FAFSA).

18  
19 A BILL  
20 TO BE ENTITLED  
21 AN ACT

22  
23 To amend Section 31-10-2, as amended by Act  
24 2014-179, 2014 Regular Session (Acts 2014), and Section  
25 31-10-3, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to the National Guard  
26 Educational Assistance Act; to revise the definition of  
27 tuition for purposes of the act; and to require applicants for

1 a tuition grant to complete a Free Application for Student  
2 Financial Aid (FAFSA).

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. Section 31-10-2, as amended by Act  
5 2014-179, 2014 Regular Session (Acts 2014), and Section  
6 31-10-3 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 "§31-10-2.

9 "The following words used in this article shall have  
10 the meanings as set forth by this section:

11 "(1) ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD. Federally recognized  
12 units of the Alabama National Guard.

13 "(2) ACTIVE MEMBER. A member of a federally  
14 recognized unit of the Alabama National Guard meeting the  
15 minimum requirements for satisfactory membership as defined in  
16 the Department of the Army and Department of the Air Force  
17 regulations.

18 "(3) TUITION. The cost of instruction and fees to  
19 the student as stated in the institution's catalog, plus the  
20 average cost of books and supplies, to a minimum of one  
21 hundred dollars (\$100) per semester, and not to exceed 50  
22 ~~percent of the remaining balance~~ one thousand dollars (\$1,000)  
23 per semester after all federal benefits have been applied to  
24 the account of the student, for a total amount not exceeding  
25 two thousand dollars (\$2,000) annually.

26 "~~(4) VETERAN. Any person with more than 180 days~~  
27 ~~active duty under Title 10, United States Code, annotated, and~~

1 ~~entitled to federal educational benefits will be considered a~~  
2 ~~veteran and not eligible for benefits under this article.~~

3 ~~"(5) WORDS IMPORTING THE MASCULINE GENDER ONLY.~~  
4 ~~Apply to female as well as male.~~

5 "§31-10-3.

6 "The Alabama Commission on Higher Education is  
7 hereby authorized to pay or reimburse the tuition for any  
8 active member of the Alabama National Guard who is enrolled in  
9 a program leading to the associate, baccalaureate, masters, or  
10 doctorate degree in an accredited institution of higher  
11 learning, technical college, or junior college within the  
12 State of Alabama. To be eligible for such benefits, the  
13 individual, at the time of his or her enrollment must be a  
14 member of the Alabama National Guard in good standing and a  
15 member of a federally recognized unit of the Alabama National  
16 Guard. The member must be at least 17 years of age and must be  
17 a resident of the State of Alabama. The tuition grant  
18 authorized under this article may be used for undergraduate or  
19 graduate studies. In no event will any individual be eligible  
20 to receive more than 100 percent of covered expenses when  
21 combined with similar federal veterans' educational benefits  
22 available to members of the National Guard. All applicants for  
23 a tuition grant shall complete a Free Application for Student  
24 Financial Aid (FAFSA). No person shall be eligible for a  
25 tuition grant for more than 12 years after the date of the  
26 first tuition payment to him or her under this article. For  
27 degrees above the baccalaureate, only 10 percent of the total

1 funds of the benefit program are to be utilized. The Alabama  
2 Commission on Higher Education shall set up minimum standards  
3 for performance that must be met in order to maintain  
4 eligibility for the continuation of the receipt of tuition  
5 grants under this article."

6 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
7 first day of the third month following its passage and  
8 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.