



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 67

Committee: Ways and Means Education

Sponsor: Senator Clyde Chambliss

Analyst: John Friedenreich

Date: 05/15/2023

Senate Bill 67 as reported by the committee on Ways and Means Education amends the Alabama National Guard Education Assistance Program (ANGEAP) to: (1) clarify that ANGEAP funds may be used to pay the costs of tuition and fees of active members of the Alabama National Guard while enrolled in a high school dual enrollment program at a community or technical college; (2) clarify that payments under the ANGEAP shall not exceed 100% of qualified tuition and fees; (3) provide that payments to private institutions of higher education shall not exceed the median cost of tuition per term of all public four-year institutions of higher learning in the state as reported on the Alabama Commission on Higher Education tuition plus required fees report; (4) clarify that education benefits shall be applied in a manner to maximize all of a member's education assistance benefits; (5) provide that a guard member may use the benefit to obtain a graduate degree, provided the benefits were not previously used to obtain an baccalaureate degree; (6) provide that any Alabama National Guard member that is disqualified from serving due solely to medical reasons with a Veteran's Administration disability rating of at least 40% is exempt from repaying ANGEAP benefits; and (7) require a member receiving ANGEAP benefits to sign a promissory note detailing provisions for the collection and recoupment of benefits in the event the member is disqualified or become ineligible to continue receiving benefits. The provisions of this bill would increase the obligations of the Education Trust Fund by an undetermined amount dependent on the amount of tuition reimbursement sought by Alabama National Guard members attending private institutions of higher education in the state under the expanded provisions of this bill, which provides that the payments for these students shall not exceed the median cost of tuition per term of all public four-year institutions of higher learning in the state, and the extent to which ANGEAP funds would be used to maximize all of a member's education assistance benefit.