

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1354

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CUNNINGHAM.

3980L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.239, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to military scholarships.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 173.239, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.239, to read as follows:

173.239. 1. Any member of the Missouri national guard, **the United States Army Reserve, United States Air Force Reserve, United States Navy Reserve, United States Marine Reserve, United States Coast Guard Reserve, or the United States Public Health Service Reserve**, who possesses the qualifications set forth in this section may be awarded an educational assistance grant to an approved public institution or an approved private institution, as those terms are defined in either section 173.205 or section 173.778, of his or her choice while he or she is a member of the Missouri national guard, **the United States Army Reserve, United States Air Force Reserve, United States Navy Reserve, United States Marine Reserve, United States Coast Guard Reserve, or the United States Public Health Service Reserve**. Funding for educational assistance pursuant to this section may be requested annually in the budget of the Missouri national guard. Educational assistance provided pursuant to this section shall not exceed funds appropriated for that purpose.

2. Educational assistance provided under this section shall not exceed the least of the following:

(1) The actual tuition, as defined in section 173.260, charged at an approved institution where the individual is enrolled or accepted for enrollment; or

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 (2) The amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri for
18 attendance;

19 (3) The grants provided under this section may be prorated subject to appropriations in
20 an amount no less than fifty percent of the limits set forth in this section.

21 3. A member of the Missouri national guard, **the United States Army Reserve, United**
22 **States Air Force Reserve, United States Navy Reserve, United States Marine Reserve,**
23 **United States Coast Guard Reserve, or the United States Public Health Service Reserve,**
24 seeking educational assistance pursuant to this section shall provide a certificate of satisfactory
25 service of his or her Missouri national guard, **the United States Army Reserve, United States**
26 **Air Force Reserve, United States Navy Reserve, United States Marine Reserve, United**
27 **States Coast Guard Reserve, or the United States Public Health Service Reserve,** duties
28 from his or her commanding officer and shall possess all other necessary entrance requirements
29 of the school of his or her choice and shall maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of
30 at least two point five on a four point scale, or the equivalent on another scale approved by the
31 program administrator, while attending the approved public or private institution.

32 4. If the grade point average of a member who is receiving educational assistance
33 pursuant to this section falls below two point five on a four point scale, or the equivalent on
34 another scale, such member shall retain the educational assistance and shall be placed on
35 probation under the educational assistance program. Failure to achieve a current grade point
36 average of at least two point five on a four point scale or the equivalent on another scale for
37 future semesters or equivalent academic terms shall result in termination of the scholarship
38 effective as of the next academic term. The member shall be removed from probation status
39 upon achieving a cumulative grade point average of two point five on a four point scale or the
40 equivalent on another scale.

41 5. If a recipient of educational assistance pursuant to this section ceases to [maintain
42 their active military affiliation] **be a member of the Missouri National Guard, the United**
43 **States Army Reserve, United States Air Force Reserve, United States Navy Reserve, United**
44 **States Marine Reserve, United States Coast Guard Reserve, or the United States Public**
45 **Health Service Reserve,** while enrolled in an academic semester or term for any reason except
46 death, disability, or medical disqualification the educational assistance shall be terminated and
47 the recipient shall repay any amounts awarded for the academic semester or term.

48 6. Applicants for educational assistance pursuant to this section shall meet the
49 qualifications established by section 173.215, except the provisions of subdivisions (2) and (4)
50 of subsection 1 of section 173.215, and shall be qualified, full-time or part-time students.

51 7. The educational assistance program established pursuant to this section shall be
52 administered by the office of the adjutant general of the Missouri national guard. The Missouri

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53 national guard shall establish guidelines for equitable administrative distribution of educational
54 assistance.

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