

# 2022 SESSION

## HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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### SENATE BILL NO. 256

#### AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on February 23, 2022)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Bell)

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 23.1-610 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Military Affairs; institutions of higher education; recruitment.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 23.1-610 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 23.1-610. Members of the National Guard; grants.**

A. Any individual who (i) is a member of the Virginia National Guard and has a minimum remaining obligation of two years, (ii) has satisfactorily completed required initial active duty service, (iii) is satisfactorily performing duty in accordance with regulations of the National Guard, and (iv) is enrolled in any course or program at any public institution of higher education or accredited nonprofit private institution of higher education whose primary purpose is to provide collegiate or graduate education and not to provide religious training or theological education is eligible for a grant in the amount of the difference between the full cost of tuition and any other educational benefits for which he is eligible as a member of the National Guard. Application for a grant shall be made to the Department of Military Affairs. Grants shall be awarded from funds made available for the purpose by the Department of Military Affairs.

B. Notwithstanding the requirement in subsection A that a member of the Virginia National Guard have a minimum of two years remaining on his service obligation, if a member is activated or deployed for federal military service, an additional day shall be added to the member's eligibility for the grant for each day of active federal service, up to 365 days. Additional credit or credit for state duty may be given at the discretion of the Adjutant General.

C. *The Department of Military Affairs may utilize grant funding in order to recruit qualified applicants for service in the Virginia National Guard. The yearly funding amount for such recruitment shall be at the discretion of the Adjutant General and the Department of Military Affairs and not exceed \$50,000 per fiscal year.*

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