

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB366

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Reid

3. **Committee:** Appropriations

4. **Title:** Institutions of higher education; tuition grants; Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance.

5. **Summary:** Makes several changes to the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, including (i) making the provisions relating to the requirements and conditions for eligibility for and award of grants under the Program subject to regulations as prescribed by the Adjutant General, (ii) eliminating the requirement to satisfy financial obligations with the institution of higher education at the beginning of each semester, (iii) simplifying the requirements relating to academic performance and good standing, and (iv) providing that any grant awarded shall be in an amount equivalent to the difference between the full cost of tuition and fees at the institution of higher education less any other educational benefits for which an individual is eligible as a member of the National Guard.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The total appropriation provided under the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) for the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program in Item 461 of the Governor's introduced budget (HB/SB 30, 2024 General Assembly Session) is \$3,604,647 general fund in FY 2025 and \$3,604,647 general fund in FY 2026. This appropriation also supports three positions responsible for running the program at an annual cost of \$235,000, leaving \$3,369,647 available for grants in each FY 2025 and FY 2026.

Currently, the grant amount is the difference between the full cost of tuition and any other educational benefits for which the individual is eligible. This bill changes the grant amount to equal the difference between the full cost of tuition and fees and any other educational benefits. The addition of fees in this calculation likely will increase grant award amounts. Additionally, the changes to eligibility may result in more students taking advantage of the program. If the existing appropriation is not sufficient to support increased grant awards or increased participation, DMA may award fewer grants each year.

Existing budget language for this program requires unexpended balances to be carried forward and reappropriated each fiscal year. Historically, DMA has an unexpended balance

that has been carried forward each fiscal year. These unexpended balances may be used to offset any increased costs.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Public institutions of higher education, Department of Military Affairs

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is identical to SB219.