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## DIGEST

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HB 485 Original

2023 Regular Session

Brass

**Abstract:** Creates the La. National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program to cover mandatory fees for members attending public postsecondary education institutions.

Present law (R.S. 29:36.1) provides for a tuition exemption program for members of the La. National Guard (LNG). Proposed law additionally creates and provides for the La. National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program to cover mandatory fees for members who meet the following criteria:

- (1) In good standing with the LNG.
- (2) Enrolled in a La. public postsecondary education institution.
- (3) Eligible for the aforementioned present law tuition exemption.

Proposed law:

- (1) Provides a scholarship duration of four academic years or until receipt of a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first; however, extends the duration for anyone mobilized or called to active duty.
- (2) Provides for administration by the Bd. of Regents, which shall adopt program rules in consultation with the LNG.
- (3) Requires the Bd. Regents, upon notice from the institution and the LNG that the student qualifies for the scholarship for the ensuing academic period, to make payment of the scholarship funds directly to the institution where the mandatory fees are due, subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

(Adds R.S. 17:4101-4103)