

2010 -- H 7196

LC00778

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - THE MILITARY RESERVE --
RESERVIST EDUCATION BENEFITS

Introduced By: Representatives Carter, Serpa, Melo, and MacBeth

Date Introduced: January 21, 2010

Referred To: House Veterans` Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 30-3 of the General Laws entitled "National Guard" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **30-3-40.6. Educational benefits for military reservists. --** Any person who is an active
4 member in good standing of any military reserve component, and who is eligible to attend any
5 state college or university in Rhode Island, will be eligible for a tuition assistance educational
6 benefit amounting to five (5) courses per semester at any Rhode Island state college or university.
7 Basic tuition or general fee charges to be waived for said five (5) courses. Each of the state
8 colleges or universities shall receive an equal share of the educational account funding for
9 military reservists, the account to be administered by the office of the adjutant general. The exact
10 amount for each institution shall be determined by the board of governors. The total amount of
11 funds in the account shall not exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in any fiscal
12 year.

13 In order to be eligible for tuition waivers a person must remain a member in good
14 standing in the military reserve and a student in good standing at any state college or university.
15 A member in good standing is defined as any soldier or airperson of any military reserve
16 component who is currently satisfactorily participating in all unit training assemblies and annual
17 training periods, as so certified by his or her commanding officer.

18 Those reservists wishing to participate in this program must enter into a contractual

1 enlistment commitment which provides for one year of obligated service in the military reserve
2 for each twelve (12) course credits or four (4) three (3) credit courses where the reservist's tuition
3 will be waived. Such assistance shall be available for courses creditable to associate's, bachelor's
4 or master's degrees. Failure to satisfactorily fulfill the service obligation incurred in return for
5 tuition assistance will require the participant to repay a pro-rata share of said assistance. This
6 obligation shall be considered to be a debt owed to the state and may be satisfied by offsetting it
7 against any state transfer payments or state income tax refunds. The participating member shall
8 reimburse the general fund when any of the following occur: the reservist fails to participate
9 satisfactorily as a member of the reserve component; the reservist withdraws from or fails to
10 complete a course for personal reasons; and the reservist fails to make up an incomplete grade
11 within time limits stipulated by the institution or one hundred twenty (120) days after the
12 completion of the class, whichever occurs first.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - THE MILITARY RESERVE --
RESERVIST EDUCATION BENEFITS

- 1 This act would provide educational benefits for military reservists.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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