

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE BILL NO. 100

BY SENATOR CRAVINS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENTS. Provides for an extension of time to claim educational benefits for members of the La. National Guard who are on inactive ready reserve status.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 29:36.1(A) and (B), relative to exemption from tuition charges
3 for service in the Louisiana National Guard; to extend eligibility for tuition
4 exemption charges to include the period of commitment in the inactive National
5 Guard; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 29:36.1(A) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
8 follows:

9 §36.1. Exemption from tuition charges for service in the Louisiana National Guard

10 A.(1) Any student enrolled or who may enroll in a public institution of
11 higher learning of this state who is seventeen years of age or over and who is serving
12 in the Louisiana National Guard, **either on active or inactive ready reserve status,**
13 shall be exempt from all tuition charges imposed by any such institution of higher
14 learning if the applicant for free tuition is presently domiciled in Louisiana. This
15 exemption may be claimed for five separate academic years or until the receipt of a
16 bachelor's degree, whichever occurs first. However, any student receiving a tuition
17 exemption under the provisions of this Section who is mobilized or called to active

1 duty **whether the student is in active service or has transferred to the inactive**
 2 **National Guard status** is entitled to an extension of the time the tuition exemption
 3 may be claimed equal to the amount of time served in active duty **and in mobilized**
 4 **status**.

5 (2) If the service in the Louisiana National Guard of a student terminates or
 6 he is placed on scholastic probation while receiving the benefits of any exemption
 7 afforded by this Section, his exemption shall immediately be forfeited, and he shall
 8 pay to such institution all tuition charges from which he was exempted pursuant to
 9 this Section for the academic semester or quarter in which his service terminates or
 10 he is placed on scholastic probation.

11 B. In addition to the requirements set out in Subsection A of this Section any
 12 guardsman receiving such exemption from tuition charges must be a member in good
 13 standing of the active **or inactive** Louisiana National Guard at the beginning of and
 14 throughout the entire semester for which he receives benefits and to meet this
 15 requisite, he must continuously maintain satisfactory participation in the Louisiana
 16 National Guard **in active or inactive National Guard status** as prescribed by
 17 regulations in effect and respectively promulgated by Department of the Army,
 18 Department of the Air Force, and the ~~Louisiana Department of Military Affairs~~
 19 **Military Department, State of Louisiana**.

20 * * *

The original instrument was prepared by H. David Smith. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Peggy Russell.

Cravins (SB 100)

DIGEST

Present law provides that any student enrolled or who may enroll in a public institution of higher learning of this state who is 17 years of age or over and who is serving in the La. National Guard shall be exempt from all tuition charges imposed by any such institution of higher learning if the applicant for free tuition is presently domiciled in Louisiana. Provides the exemption may be claimed for five separate academic years or until the receipt of a bachelor's degree, whichever occurs first. Proposed law specifies that the tuition exemption benefit is available whether the student is on active or inactive ready reserve status.

Present law extends the period in which a student may claim the benefit if mobilized or called to active duty for a period equal to the amount of time served in active duty.

Proposed law retains present law but extends the extension of the period to claim such benefits whether the student is in active service or has transferred to the inactive National Guard Status. Further provides that the extension period shall also include credit equal to the time in mobilized status.

(Amends R.S. 29:36.1(A) and (B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Adds provisions which extend the extension period for tuition exemption to a student who has transferred to inactive National Guard status.
2. Adds provisions to include credit equal to the time a student is in mobilized status to the extension period for tuition exemption.