

HOUSE BILL 232

F2, E4

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0284

CF SB 142

By: Chair, Appropriations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Military)

Requested: September 17, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Military Department – National Guard – Tuition Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the institutions and types of expenses in connection with
4 which tuition assistance may be provided for certain eligible Maryland National
5 Guard service members; and generally relating to tuition assistance for members of
6 the Maryland National Guard.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 13–405

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 13–405.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) “Institution” means:

18 (i) any campus of the University System of Maryland, any
19 community college established under Title 16 of the Education Article, Morgan State
20 University, or St. Mary’s College;

21 (ii) any private institution of higher education that grants a member
22 a tuition waiver of at least 50%;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(iii) any public postsecondary vocational-technical or trade school; or

(iv) any private postsecondary vocational-technical [or trade school]

3 that grants a member a tuition waiver of at least 50%], TRADE, OR CAREER SCHOOL
4 RECOGNIZED BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION OR THE
5 MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING COUNCIL.

(3) "Member" means an individual who:

(i) is regularly enlisted in the National Guard; or

(ii) holds a commission in the National Guard.

(4) (I) "TRAINING ASSISTANCE" MEANS EXPENSES DIRECTLY

10 RELATED TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR
11 PARTICIPATION IN A COURSE OR PROGRAM AT AN INSTITUTION.

(II) "TRAINING ASSISTANCE" INCLUDES:

1. INDUSTRY-REQUIRED TOOLS, TECHNOLOGY, AND

14 PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT:

2. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. UNIFORMS.

16 AND SPECIALIZED CLOTHING:

3 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING COSTS NECESSARY

17 FOR EMPLOYMENT: AND

1 TRADE RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

4. TRADE-RELATED P MATERIALS, SOFTWARE, AND DIGITAL RESOURCES

(5) (i) Tuition means undergraduate, graduate, professional, courses and related fees at an institution.

(ii) "Tuition" does not include charges for self-supporting programs

25 (b) (1) To the extent that funds are provided in the State budget, the
26 Department may provide assistance equal to 100% of the cost of in-State tuition **AND**
27 **TRAINING ASSISTANCE** for any regularly scheduled undergraduate credit course,
28 graduate credit course, professional credit course, vocational-technical course, or trade
29 course for any active member attending an institution who is certified as eligible by the
30 Adjutant General.

(2) Subject to paragraph (5) of this subsection, a member who receives assistance under paragraph (1) of this subsection for an undergraduate credit, vocational-technical, or trade **OR CAREER** course shall remain an active member for at least 2 years following the completion of the course.

5 (3) Subject to paragraph (5) of this subsection, a member who receives
6 assistance under paragraph (1) of this subsection for a graduate or professional credit
7 course shall remain an active member for at least 4 years following the completion of the
8 course.

20 (c) (1) The Adjutant General may not certify a member as eligible unless the
21 member is:

22 (i) enlisted and has at least 24 months remaining to serve on the
23 current enlistment of the member; or

24 (ii) an officer or warrant officer and agrees in writing to serve for a
25 minimum of 24 months.

26 (2) The 24-month requirement runs from the first day of classes for the
27 semester.

28 (d) If a recipient of tuition assistance under this section is discharged from the
29 National Guard for a reason designated by the Adjutant General, the assistance terminates
30 and the member shall reimburse the Department the amount of tuition assistance received
31 for that semester within 30 days of discharge.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 October 1, 2026.