

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4000

To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a program of financial assistance to enable more members of the National Guard of the District of Columbia to attend institutions of higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2004

Mr. HOBSON (for himself and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a program of financial assistance to enable more members of the National Guard of the District of Columbia to attend institutions of higher education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “District of Columbia
5 National Guard College Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLEGE FINANCIAL ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE PROGRAM FOR DISTRICT OF COLUM-**
3 **BIA NATIONAL GUARD.**

4 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—(1) Chapter 1611 of
5 title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
6 end the following new section:

7 **“§ 16402. District of Columbia National Guard: col-**
8 **lege financial assistance program**

9 “(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary concerned may
10 provide financial assistance to an eligible member of the
11 National Guard of the District of Columbia for expenses
12 of the member while the member is enrolled in an ap-
13 proved institution of higher education in a degree, certifi-
14 cate, or other program (including a program of study
15 abroad approved for credit by the institution of higher
16 education) leading to a recognized educational credential
17 at the institution of higher education.

18 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for financial assist-
19 ance under this section, a member of the National Guard
20 of the District of Columbia must—

21 “(1) be a member of the National Guard of the
22 District of Columbia for not less than the 12 con-
23 secutive months preceding the commencement of the
24 tuition assistance;

1 “(2) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in
2 a program of education referred to in subsection (a)
3 at an institution of higher education; and

4 “(3) if already enrolled, maintain satisfactory
5 progress in the course of study the member is pur-
6 suing in accordance with section 484(c) of the High-
7 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(c)).

8 “(c) COVERED EXPENSES.—Expenses for which fi-
9 nancial assistance may be provided under this section
10 are—

11 “(1) tuition and fees charged by an approved
12 institution of higher education involved;

13 “(2) the cost of books; and

14 “(3) laboratory expenses.

15 “(d) AMOUNT.—(1) The amount of financial assist-
16 ance provided to a member of the National Guard of the
17 District of Columbia under this section shall be prescribed
18 by the Secretary concerned, but may not exceed \$2,500
19 for any academic year. The Secretary concerned shall pro-
20 rate assistance under this section for members who pursue
21 a program of education on less than a full-time basis.

22 “(2) A member may not receive more than \$12,500
23 under this section.

24 “(e) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall
25 be construed to require an institution of higher education

1 to alter the institution’s admissions policies or standards
2 in any manner to enable a member of the National Guard
3 of the District of Columbia to enroll in the institution.

4 “(f) GIFTS.—The Secretary concerned may accept,
5 use, and dispose of donations of services or property for
6 purposes of carrying out this section.

7 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) The term ‘approved institution of higher
9 education’ means an institution of higher education
10 (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
11 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that—

12 “(A) is eligible to participate in the stu-
13 dent financial assistance programs under title
14 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
15 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

16 “(B) has entered into an agreement with
17 the Secretary concerned containing such condi-
18 tions as the Secretary may specify, including a
19 requirement that the institution use the funds
20 made available under this section to supplement
21 and not supplant assistance that otherwise
22 would be provided to eligible students from the
23 District of Columbia National Guard.

24 “(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ‘Sec-
25 retary concerned’ means—

4 “(B) the Secretary of the Air Force, in the
5 case of the Air National Guard of the District
6 of Columbia.”.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“16402. District of Columbia National Guard: college financial assistance program.”.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—Financial assistance may be provided under section 16402 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), to eligible members of the National Guard of the District of Columbia described in such section for periods of instruction that begin on or after January 1, 2004.

