

Sec. 52. RAILROAD SERVICE PRESERVATION.

No state or local agency or political subdivision may take any action that would have the effect of precluding the use for commuter rail service of any rail line that is providing rail service within the seven-county metropolitan area on the effective date of this section.

Sec. 53. REPEALER.

Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 299D.10, is repealed.

Sec. 54. APPLICATION.

Sections 49 and 50 apply in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.

Sec. 55. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) All provisions of this act that appropriate money for fiscal year 1997 are effective the day following final enactment.

(b) Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 46, 49, and 52 are effective the day following final enactment.

(c) Sections 19, 20, 21, 23 to 28, and 30 are effective August 1, 1997, and apply to violations committed on and after that date.

Presented to the governor May 15, 1997

Signed by the governor May 16, 1997, 2:00 p.m.

CHAPTER 160—S.F.No. 4

An act relating to the military; changing the tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program; amending Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 192.501, subdivision 2.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 192.501, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. TUITION AND TEXTBOOK REIMBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The adjutant general shall establish a program to provide tuition and textbook reimbursement grants to eligible members of the Minnesota national guard within the limitations of this subdivision.

(b) Eligibility is limited to a member of the national guard who:

(1) is serving satisfactorily as defined by the adjutant general;

(2) is attending a post-secondary educational institution, as defined by section 136A.15, subdivision 6, including a vocational or technical school operated or regulated by this state or another state or province; and

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by strikeout.

(3) provides proof of satisfactory completion of coursework, as defined by the adjutant general.

In addition, if a member of the Minnesota national guard is killed in the line of state active service or federally funded state active service, as defined in section 190.05, subdivisions 5a and 5b, the member's surviving spouse, and any surviving dependent who has not yet reached 24 years of age, shall be is eligible for a tuition and textbook reimbursement grant.

The adjutant general may, within the limitations of this paragraph and other applicable laws, determine additional eligibility criteria for the grant, and must specify the criteria in department regulations and publish changes as necessary.

(c) The amount of a tuition and textbook reimbursement grant must be specified on a schedule as determined and published in department regulations by the adjutant general, but is limited to a maximum of an amount equal to the greater of:

(1) 75 percent of the cost of tuition for lower division programs in the college of liberal arts at the twin cities campus of the University of Minnesota in the most recent academic year; or

(2) 50 percent of the cost of tuition for the program in which the person is enrolled at that Minnesota public institution, or if that public institution is outside the state of Minnesota, for the cost of a comparable program at the University of Minnesota, except that in the case of a survivor as defined in paragraph (b), the amount of the tuition and textbook reimbursement grant for coursework satisfactorily completed by the person shall be is limited to 100 percent of the cost of tuition for post-secondary courses at a Minnesota public educational institution.

Paragraph (b) notwithstanding, a person is no longer eligible for a grant under this subdivision once the person has received grants under this subdivision for the equivalent of 208 quarter credits or 144 semester credits of coursework.

(d) Tuition and textbook reimbursement grants received under this subdivision ~~shall~~ may not be considered by the Minnesota higher education services office or by any other state board, commission, or entity in determining a person's eligibility for a scholarship or grant-in-aid under sections 136A.095 to 136A.1311.

(e) If a member fails to complete a term of enlistment during which a tuition and textbook reimbursement grant was paid, the adjutant general may seek to recoup a prorated amount as determined by the adjutant general.

Presented to the governor May 15, 1997

Signed by the governor May 16, 1997, 2:05 p.m.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.