

Proposed 2007 Session Legislation

Agency Name: **Military Affairs** Agency No: **67010**

Priority Number: **10** Filename: **6701\12-010**

Short Title: **Extend Tuition Waiver Program for MT National Guard (MTNG)**

Agency Contact Person/Phone: **MG Randall D. Mosley / 324-3010**

1. Purpose:
 Amend 20-25-421 (temporary)(Charges for tuition – waiver)MCA, to extend the "Sunset Provision" that terminates the statute on 6/30/2009. The statute currently provides that the regents may waive tuition for up to 5,000 credits, each academic year, in conjunction with the Montana National Guard (MTNG) education benefit program. Effective 7/1/2009, the permanent version of 20-25-421, MCA, provides for MTNG tuition waivers only if funds are available after all other tuition waivers (given to other qualifying categories of students) have been granted.

2. Background:
 While the MTNG and the regents have been working together to implement the MTNG tuition waiver program, it's anticipated that the tuition program will take longer to implement than was originally anticipated. Therefore, the Department of Military Affairs believes that the provisions of the current statute should be extended, in order to allow for a full and fair period of development and implementation of the program.

3. Fiscal Impact by Fund Type: *This impact should be as specific as possible.*
 Extending the deadline in of itself will not cause a fiscal impact over the current law. Current law authorizes tuition waiver, however, it is permissive. In enacting the law last session a fiscal note was calculated by the University System and was based upon 5,000 credits per year (two semesters). The calculation assumed a student carried 30 credits in a year and thus the 5,000 credits waived was the equivalent of 167 full time students (5,000/30 = 167). The cost of those 30 credits per student was estimated at \$3,633 for FY 2006 and \$3,933 for FY 2007. The total impact if funded by the state budget would be \$605,477 for FY 2006 and \$656,808 for FY 2007. It is anticipated that there will be a similar fiscal impact for future bienniums resulting from a decrease in the amount of tuition paid to Montana institutions of higher learning.

4. Summary Checklist [Check & complete all that apply]--

Housekeeping Only Federal Requirement Audit Recommendation (Audit No.) Major Legislation

Anticipated to be Controversial Legislation Bill Draft has been included in Legislation Submittal (if available)

Supports Submitted EPP Item Number: Local Government Fiscal Impact

Increases FTE, or Decreases FTE by

List FTE amount and program

Increases Existing Revenue Tax Fee Penalty [amount in #3]

Decreases Existing Revenue Tax Fee Penalty [amount in #3]

Establishes New Revenue Tax Fee Penalty [amount in #3]

Leg. has been Submitted in Previous Legislative Sessions (list priority no, LC no, or bill no):

Legislation would affect other state agencies (list):
 University Systems

Special Interest Groups Affected (list):

Other: