

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 522

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**Version:** As introduced

**Authors:** McCollum

**Subject:** Military Affairs - Tuition Reimbursement Program for Military Reservists

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### Overview

This bill creates a textbook and tuition reimbursement program for members of the reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces, similar to the current program for Minnesota National Guard members. It also funds this program with an unspecified appropriation from the general fund to the adjutant general for fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

- 1 Subd. 1. Establishes the program.** Establishes a tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program for members of the U.S. Armed Forces reserve programs, similar to the current program for qualified members of the Minnesota National Guard (see Minn. Stat. § 192.501, subd. 2). The program becomes effective when the senior federal reserve commander headquartered in this state agrees to administer it on behalf of the adjutant general.
- Subd. 2. Specifies eligibility criteria.** a) To be eligible, a member of a U.S. military reserve unit must:
- (1) be a Minnesota resident;
  - (2) be assigned to a military reserve unit stationed in Minnesota;
  - (3) be serving satisfactorily;
  - (4) be attending a public or private post-secondary educational institution (defined by Minn. Stat. 136A.15, subd. 6), whether in Minnesota or another state or province and including a vocational or technical school;
  - (5) provide proof of satisfactory completion of coursework; and
  - (6) be to reimburse the state if the person fails to complete the present term of enlistment.
- b) Authorizes the adjutant to specify additional eligibility criteria.
- c) Establishes that the reimbursement amount is identical to that for National Guard members under Minn. Stat. § 192.501, subd. 2., up to a total of 208 quarter credit hours or 144 semester credit hours.

d) Prevents consideration of grants under this program when determining a person's eligibility for state scholarships and grants-in-aid.

e) Authorizes the adjutant general to recoup grants under this program from anyone not completing a term of enlistment during which a grant was received.

f) Specifies reporting requirements for the adjutant general.

[Note that the tuition and textbook reimbursement grant program for members of the Minnesota National Guard - in Minn. Stat. § 192.501, subd. 2 - differs from the program proposed in this bill by also extending eligibility to:

(1) the surviving spouse and dependents of a member killed in the line of state or federal active duty service; and

(2) nonresidents (who are members of the Minnesota National Guard).]

**2 Appropriation.** Specifies a blank appropriation for the biennium for this program.