



Issue Brief: National Guard Tuition Assistance

TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, & NATIONAL GUARD

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SUMMARY

The Militia and Armories Act (Utah Code 39-1-63) provides for tuition assistance to members of the National Guard for study at postsecondary institutions of learning. The statute further states “that the adjutant general shall include a request each year for funds for this program”.

The Analyst recommends that the Transportation, Environmental Quality, and National Guard Appropriations Subcommittee consider funding \$500,000 one-time from the General Fund for National Guard tuition assistance.

DISCUSSION

Actions of the 2008 General Session of the Legislature appropriated \$500,000 of one-time funding and \$588,100 of ongoing funding from the General Fund for tuition assistance to qualifying National Guard personnel in FY 2009. The National Guard states that the above level of funding is helping educate 632 soldiers in the current fiscal year. It is anticipated that the available funding for FY 2009 will be committed by March 1, 2008.

The National Guard is requesting an ongoing amount of \$500,000 of ongoing General Funds for continued tuition assistance to Guard personnel.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends that the Transportation, Environmental Quality, and National Guard Appropriations Subcommittee consider funding of \$500,000 one-time from the General Fund for the continued initiative to assist with the education of National Guard personnel.