

**2025 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**SB 2170**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2170  
1/23/2025

Relating to the creation of the army forces reserve component scholarship program.
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2:31 p.m. Chairman Wobbema opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Wobbema, Vice-Chairman Axtman, Senator Boschee, Senator Larson, Senator Powers.

### Discussion Topics:

- Out-of-state military reserve units
- Participation units
- Number of reserves
- Benefit changes

2:31 p.m. Senator Dever introduced the bill.

2:41 p.m. Robert Black, Army Reserve Ambassador, testified in favor and submitted testimony #31112.

2:56 p.m. Brenda Zastoupil, ND University System, testified in neutral and submitted testimony #31113.

3:09 p.m. Chris Martens, Attorney Advisor for ND National Guard, testified in neutral.

### Additional written testimony:

Joseph Campbell, RCTG CO Commander U.S. Army Dakota District, submitted written testimony in neutral #31032.

3:13 p.m. Chairman Wobbema closed the hearing.

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
DAKOTA DISTRICT, MINNEAPOLIS RECRUITING BATTALION  
4301 WEST 57TH STREET, SUITE 151  
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57108-2205

RCMW-MP-DD

22 January 2024

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 2170**

1. North Dakota residents who serve as reservists in North Dakota reserve units contribute significantly to the state's economy, much like members of the National Guard. These reservists fulfill their military obligations and also maintain civilian employment in the state, supporting local businesses, industries, and communities. This dual contribution reinforces the critical role they play in enhancing the economic vitality of North Dakota.

2. The Army Reserve has a notable presence in North Dakota, along with reserve components from sister services. With 195 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers serving in six units at three facilities, the Army Reserve annually contributes \$23,445,425 in economic impact to the state. This includes supporting 256 non-Department of Defense (DoD) jobs, generating \$7,290,941 in non-DoD wages, and \$14,673,807 in direct spending. The total military payroll stands at \$5,459,562, with a civilian payroll of \$1,185,740. These substantial contributions of just one reserve component highlight the importance of reservists to North Dakota.

3. Reservists do not receive federal tuition assistance beyond what is available to members of the National Guard. Reservists offer many of the same benefits to the state's economy, as they represent a highly trained and disciplined workforce. Providing additional state education benefits to reservists would support their personal and professional development and contribute to the creation of a more educated workforce.

4. The Reserves offer unique Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) that are not always available within the National Guard. This distinction leaves some North Dakota residents facing a difficult choice between pursuing an MOS that aligns with their career aspirations and obtaining the additional education benefits offered by the state. This dilemma can negatively impact the workforce, as training in a career-aligned MOS provides significant advantages to employers seeking highly skilled and specialized employees.

5. This bill is not without precedent. West Virginia has implemented similar benefits for reservists, demonstrating a viable model for supporting these service members and enhancing the state's workforce simultaneously.

6. I can be reached at (229) 291-0188 or joseph.o.campbell5.mil@army.mil.

JOSEPH O. CAMPBELL  
CPT, AD  
Commanding



# NDNG VS USAR



## EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

- State Tuition Assistance for Public and Private Institutions (who will agree to waive 25%)
- 4 Colleges w/ ROTC Programs
- \$3,964-\$6,973 Average Annual Tuition Costs
- 25% Waiver/75% Reimbursement State Education Tuition Assistance Amount
- \$4,000 Annual Federal Tuition Assistance Total

The combined Federal and State Tuition Assistance Programs will cover up to 100% of tuition at a North Dakota state-supported school. Federal Tuition Assistance will be paid directly to the school up to a total of \$4,000 per fiscal year. State reimbursement will be available to cover tuition costs not met by the Federal Program. State-funded reimbursement will be paid after each semester based on the number of successfully completed credits with a 2.0 GPA or higher.

For more information, contact us at 1-800-GoGuard.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### Army National Guard - Bonus Eligible High Demand Careers

- 14G Air Defense Battle Management System Operator
- 14S Avenger Crewmember
- 91G Tactical Power Generator Specialist
- 25U Signal Support Systems Specialist
- 12N Horizontal Construction Engineer
- 94F Computer Detection Systems Repairer
- 91C Utilities Equipment Repairer
- 92F Petroleum Supply Specialist
- 12B Combat Engineer
- 92G Culinary Specialist

Available



Accountable

3<sup>rd</sup> Recruiting Brigade

Attuned



Attentive





# Core Benefits(Education)



- **TUITION ASSISTANCE**

- Under the Tuition Assistance program, the Army may pay a portion or up to all of the SMs college tuition during off-duty periods. Eligible Soldiers will receive help from the Army Continuing Education System (ACES) to secure funds for undergraduate and graduate courses.
- This program applies to Soldiers serving active duty, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard regardless of service status.
- **BENEFITS OF THE ARMY'S TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

- \$250.00 per semester hour
- \$166.67 per quarter hour
- 16 semester hours per year
- maximum of ~~\$4,000~~ per year

4,500

Available



Accountable

3<sup>rd</sup> Recruiting Brigade

Attuned



Attentive



## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$23,445,425**

ECONOMIC IMPACT

**256**

NON-DOD JOBS SUPPORTED

**\$7,290,941**

NON-DOD WAGES

**\$14,673,807**

DOLLARS SPENT

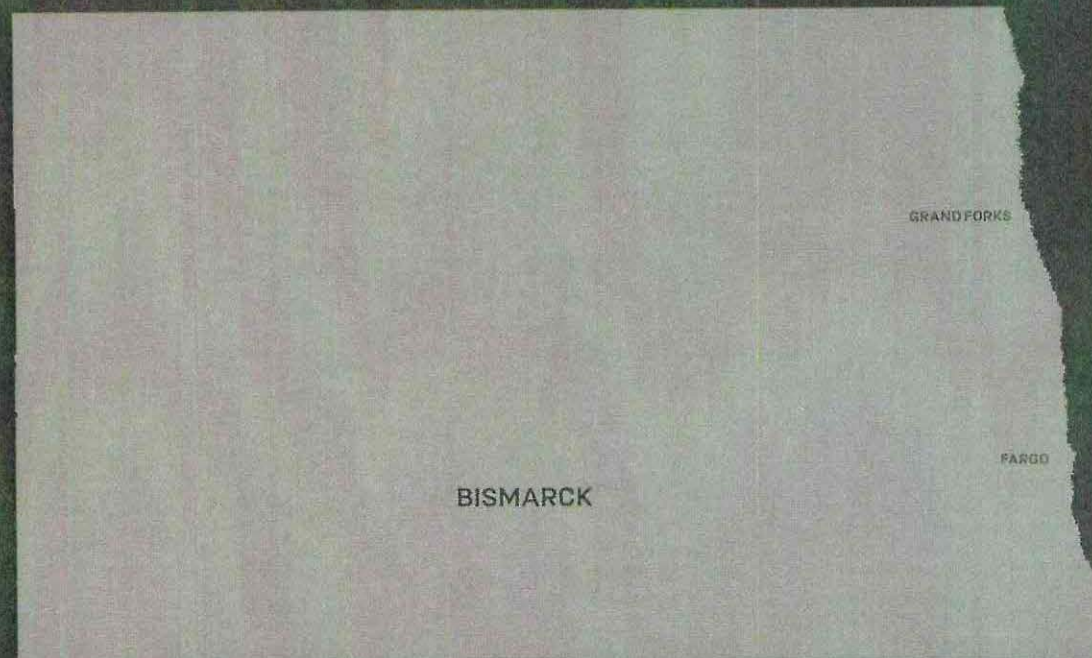
**\$5,459,562**

TOTAL MIL PAYROLL

**\$1,185,740**

TOTAL CIV PAYROLL

The Army Reserve provides 35% of all engineer assets throughout the Total Army, bringing civilian expertise to research in alternative engineering technology and supporting disaster relief and civilian rescue efforts.



**3**

FACILITIES

**6**

UNITS/DETS

**195**

SOLDIERS

**12**

CIVILIANS



Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

*Draft  
NDUS  
Proposed  
Amendments*

**SENATE BILL NO. 2170**

*ND residency?  
Reserved to ND?*

*Draft*

Introduced by

Senators Dever, Castaneda, Paulson  
Representatives J. Olson, Pyle

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the creation of the ~~army~~ armed forces reserve component scholarship program.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Definitions.**

For purposes of this chapter:

1. "Active duty" means full-time service pursuant to ~~an executive order of the president of the United States or the governor or an act of the congress of the United States~~ 10 USC 12301.
2. "Institution of higher education" means an institution at which the applicant is enrolled in:
  - a. ~~A degree-granting program, whether the institution is under the control of the state board of higher education or privately controlled;~~ An accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in this state; or
  - b. An in-state nursing education program approved by the North Dakota board of nursing; or
  - c. ~~A program for a high-demand occupation identified under subsection 3 of section 15-10-38.1.~~

*— orig. bill  
excluded  
tribal  
colleges*

**Army Armed forces reserve component scholarship program - State board of higher education.**

1. The state board of higher education shall:
  - a. Administer the ~~army~~ armed forces reserve component scholarship program.
  - b. Approve all eligible applicants.
  - c. Process applications for the scholarship in the order received.
  - d. Provide scholarships regardless of the financial need of the applicant.

Draft

2. The board may not grant priority to an applicant based on sex, race, or religion.

**Eligible applicant - Eligibility units.**

1. An eligible applicant:
  - a. Is ~~a~~ an active member of a reserve component of the United States army, navy, marine corps, air force, coast guard, or space force in the state; and
  - b. Is enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited institution of higher education with a physical presence in the state; and
  - c. Does not possess a baccalaureate degree; and
  - d. Has not received financial assistance under chapters 37 - 07.1 or 37 - 07.2.
2. ~~An individual~~ A reserve component member who ~~is~~ was also less than honorably discharged from a branch of the armed forces under other than honorable conditions is not eligible for a scholarship under this chapter.
3. A recipient of the scholarship may receive a scholarship for no more than forty-eight eligibility units.
4. For purposes of this section, ~~twelve or more credit hours in an academic term~~ full-time equals: twelve eligibility units, if the term is a semester, or the equivalent quarter hour, clock hour or non-term program equivalent.
  - a. ~~Twelve eligibility units, if the term is a semester.~~
  - b. ~~Eight eligibility units, if the term is a quarter.~~

**Scholarship amounts.**

1. Subject to legislative appropriations, the state board of higher education shall pay on behalf of an eligible applicant:
  - a. An amount equal to one hundred percent of the tuition charged by the institution, if an eligible applicant is enrolled at an institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education; or
  - b. The lesser of an amount equal to:
    - (1) One hundred percent of the tuition charged by the institution; or
    - (2) ~~The average tuition of all institutions of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education~~ An amount not to exceed the highest regular undergraduate tuition rate in the NDUS if enrolled at a nonpublic institution.



Draft

- c. The board may not issue a scholarship under this chapter which is in excess of the total cost of attendance, as determined by the institution of higher education, when considering all financial aid sources.
- 2. The state board of higher education may require:
  - a. An applicant to apply for federal educational financial assistance programs, *for* including programs offered by the United States department of defense, for which an applicant is eligible based on the applicant's military service.
  - b. Other financial assistance received by a scholarship recipient be applied to *last dollar* eligible expenses before scholarship funds awarded under this section may be applied to the remaining eligible expenses of the recipient.

**Active duty - Effects.**

If an eligible applicant is called to active duty and as a result withdraws or otherwise fails to complete courses for which scholarships have been awarded under this chapter:

- 1. The institution of higher education shall ~~grant the individual a leave of absence from the individual's education program and may not impose an academic penalty for withdrawal or failure to complete courses.~~ allow the student to withdraw from enrolled courses, grant the individual a leave of absence from the individual's education program, and may not impose an academic penalty for withdrawal or failure to complete courses.
- 2. If a scholarship for the courses has already been paid, the state board of higher education:
  - (a) May not add the eligibility units for the term to the individual's accumulated eligibility units, ~~and the institution of higher education shall repay the scholarship amount to the state;~~ or
  - (b) Shall add the eligibility units for the term to the individual's accumulated eligibility units as usual, if the institution of higher education agrees to allow the individual to complete the remainder of the courses in which the individual was enrolled at the time the individual was called to active duty.

**State board of higher education - Rules.**

The state board of higher education may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 28 - 32 necessary to implement and administer this chapter.

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2170  
2/6/2025

Relating to the creation of the army forces reserve component scholarship program.
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2:23 p.m. Chairman Wobbema called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Wobbema, Vice-Chairman Axtman, Senator Boschee, Senator Larson, Senator Powers.

### Discussion Topics:

- Federal regulations
- Reserve Officers' Training Corps
- Access to programs
- Federal tuition assistance

2:27 p.m. Jay Sheldon, Strategy and Policy Officer for the North Dakota National Guard, answered committee questions.

2:39 p.m. Senator Boschee moved a Do Not Pass.

2:39 p.m. Senator Axtman seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Diane Larson	N
Senator Michelle Powers	Y

Motion passed 4-1-0.

Senator Axtman will carry the bill.

2:40 p.m. Chairman Wobbema closed the hearing.

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**SB 2170 ([25.0522.01000](#))**

**Workforce Development Committee (Sen. Wobbema, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (4 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2170 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.