



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Oregon Senate Acts on College Affordability for Oregon's National Guard

Senate bill fills a gap in existing law on in-state tuition for members of armed services

SALEM, Ore. – Today the Oregon Senate voted unanimously to advance a bill opening in-state tuition to all members of the Oregon National Guard, including personnel residing outside the state's borders.

"This new policy will make higher education more affordable for Oregon soldiers and airmen, and it can help recruit and retain National Guard members here," **said Senator Mark Meek, D – Happy Valley**, sponsor of the bill.

State law already extends in-state tuition access to members of the military who are stationed in Oregon but have official residences in other states. This new legislation, if adopted by the House and signed into law, will equalize tuition access for around 1,200 Oregon guardsmen and women whose day jobs or family obligations have them living outside the state.

"This is just one more small reason for our service members who live just across the border or around the country to remain in the Oregon National Guard and remain connected to Oregon," Russell Gibson, director of government affairs for the Oregon Military Department, told the Senate Committee on Veterans.

The bill, SB 798, goes next to the Oregon House of Representatives.

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