

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 69
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H69-PCS10168-RQ-1

Short Title: Military and Veterans Educational Promise Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 10, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATORY ADMISSIONS POLICIES REGARDING
3 ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS; TO REQUIRE MILITARY
4 ADMISSIONS DEFERMENT FOR CERTAIN PERSONS ADMITTED TO
5 CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA; AND
6 TO PROVIDE IN-STATE TUITION TO CERTAIN HONORABLY DISCHARGED
7 VETERANS.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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10 **PART I. NONDISCRIMINATORY ADMISSIONS EVALUATIONS AND MILITARY**
11 **DEFERMENT**

12 **SECTION 1.** Article 1 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
13 a new Part to read:

14 "Part 8A. Military Admissions and Deferment.

15 **"§ 116-44.9A. Definitions.**

16 For purposes of this Part, the following definitions shall apply:

- 17 (1) Applicant. – An individual who has applied for admission to a constituent
18 institution of The University of North Carolina.
19 (2) Armed Forces. – The United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine
20 Corps, Navy, Space Force, and North Carolina National Guard.
21 (3) Constituent institution of The University of North Carolina. – A constituent
22 institution of higher education of The University of North Carolina, as defined
23 in G.S. 116-2(4), excluding the constituent high school, the North Carolina
24 School of Science and Mathematics.
25 (4) Reserve Armed Forces. – The reserve components of any of the Armed
26 Forces.
27 (5) Uniformed service. – Any of the following:
28 a. Armed Forces.
29 b. Reserve Armed Forces.
30 c. The Merchant Marine.

31 **"§ 116-44.9B. Nondiscriminatory evaluations of applications.**

32 A constituent institution of The University of North Carolina shall not deny admission to any
33 applicant solely on the basis of the applicant's indication that the applicant is serving in the
34 uniformed service or that the applicant intends to serve in the uniformed service.

35 **"§ 116-44.9C. Deferment.**



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1 (a) Deferment Requests. – The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina
2 shall adopt a policy requiring constituent institutions to provide for enrollment deferment for
3 members of the uniformed services and spouses of members of the uniformed services if the
4 deferment is requested at least 30 days prior to enrollment in a constituent institution.

5 (b) Deferment Periods. – Members and spouses of members of the reserve Armed Forces
6 shall be granted deferments of at least two years after entry into the reserve Armed Forces. All
7 other members and spouses of members of the uniformed services shall be granted deferments
8 of at least five years after entry into the uniformed services."

10 **PART II. IN-STATE TUITION FOR HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS**

11 **SECTION 2.** Article 14 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
12 a new section to read:

13 **"§ 116-143.3B. Tuition of qualifying veterans.**

14 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

15 (1) Armed Forces. – The United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine
16 Corps, Navy, Space Force, the North Carolina National Guard, and any
17 reserve component of any of these entities.

18 (2) Qualifying veteran. – An individual who meets all of the following criteria:

19 a. Served active duty for not less than 90 days in the Armed Forces.

20 b. Received an Honorable Discharge from the Armed Forces.

21 c. Meets at least one of the following criteria:

22 1. Graduated from high school in North Carolina on or after
23 January 1, 2004.

24 2. Served active duty in the Armed Forces with a permanent
25 station in North Carolina for at least 90 continuous days.

26 3. Was awarded a Purple Heart.

27 (b) Any qualifying veteran admitted to an institution of higher education, as defined in
28 G.S. 116-143.1(a)(3), shall be charged the in-State tuition rate and applicable mandatory fees for
29 enrollment, without having to satisfy the 12-month residency requirement under G.S. 116-143.1.

30 (c) The individual applying for the benefit of this section has the burden of proving
31 entitlement to the benefit."

32 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

33 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
34 the 2025-2026 academic year.
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