

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 28, 2010

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 15, 2010

SENATE BILL

No. 1075

Introduced by Senator Correa

February 17, 2010

An act to amend Sections 821 and 824 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to military service.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1075, as amended, Correa. Military service: benefits.

The California Military Families Financial Relief Act of 2005 provides certain protections for service members of the military, as defined. These protections include, for a student granted an academic leave of absence for military service, a requirement that the academic institution, at the student's election, credit the student's tuition and fee charges toward a subsequent academic term or refund tuition and fees paid, as specified.

This bill would, as an alternative to the above protections for a student granted an academic leave of absence for military service, require an institution, upon election by the student, to make arrangements to *reasonably* accommodate and assist the student so that he or she is able to meet any and all coursework requirements that he or she may have missed due to military service, as defined.

The bill would revise the definition of "service member" and "military service" for purposes of the California Military Families Financial Relief Act of 2005, and would make other related changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 821 of the Military and Veterans Code
2 is amended to read:

3 821. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions
4 apply:

5 (a) “Service member” means either of the following:

6 (1) A member of the militia, as defined in Section 120, called
7 or ordered into state military service pursuant to Section 143 or
8 146, or in federal or state military service pursuant to Title 10 or
9 32 of the United States Code.

10 (2) A reservist of the United States Military Reserve who ~~have~~
11 *has* been ordered to full-time federal active duty by the President
12 of the United States pursuant to Title 10 of the United States Code.

13 (b) “Military service” means either of the following:

14 (1) Full-time active state service or full-time active federal
15 service of a service member who is a member of the militia, as
16 described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

17 (2) Full-time active duty of a service member who is a reservist,
18 as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), for a period of 30
19 consecutive days.

20 SEC. 2. Section 824 of the Military and Veterans Code is
21 amended to read:

22 824. (a) If requested by a student granted an academic leave
23 of absence for military service, not later than one year after the
24 student’s release from military service, other than a dishonorable
25 release, the institution in which the student is enrolled shall do one
26 of the following, as elected by the student:

27 (1) The institution shall make arrangements to *reasonably*
28 accommodate and assist the student so that he or she is able to
29 meet any and all coursework requirements that he or she may have
30 missed due to military service.

31 (2) The institution shall credit tuition and fee charges toward a
32 subsequent academic term in an amount that is equal to 100 percent
33 of what the student paid the institution for the academic term in
34 which the student is required to report for military service.

35 (3) The institution shall refund tuition and fees paid for the
36 academic term, provided the student withdraws before the withdraw
37 date established by the institution. The refund shall equal 100
38 percent of the tuition and fee charges the student paid the institution

1 for the academic term. If the student withdraws after the withdraw
2 date established by the institution, the student is ineligible for a
3 refund of tuition and fee charges. For the purposes of this section,
4 the “withdraw date” shall be the same as the date set by the
5 institution for its general student population to withdraw from the
6 institution or a course or class without academic penalty.

7 (b) If requested by a student granted an academic leave of
8 absence for military service, not later than one year after the
9 student’s release from military service, other than a dishonorable
10 release, the institution shall restore the student to the educational
11 status the student had attained prior to being called to military
12 service without loss of academic credits earned, scholarships or
13 grants awarded, or tuition and other fees paid prior to the
14 commencement of military service.

15 (c) If an institution fails to comply with this section, the student
16 may bring an action against the institution to enforce its provisions
17 in any court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the
18 student resides. If the student resides outside of this state, the action
19 shall be brought in the court of the county in which the campus of
20 the institution previously attended by the student is located. The
21 court may award reasonable attorney’s fees and expenses if the
22 student prevails in the action.

23 (d) The Legislature hereby requests that the University of
24 California adopt policies similar to those set forth in this section.