

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: January 14, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Florida National Guard

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>WM</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill restores eligibility provisions for partial tuition assistance authorized for members of the Florida National Guard which was deleted erroneously by Chapter 97-158, Laws of Florida.

This bill substantially amends section 250.10, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida National Guard has administered a partial (50 percent) tuition assistance program as an incentive to recruitment and retention in the uniformed service. The program is directed principally at eligible high-school graduates who see a compatibility between part-time, military service and a full-time, civilian job. In an effort to encourage its recruitment efforts, relative to other state guard units and the realignment and worldwide reduction of United States military forces, the Florida National Guard recommended, and the Legislature passed, an increase in this assistance level to 100 percent of tuition, prospectively to new enlistments. The force realignment will place a premium on state guard units meeting their recruitment and retention quotas in order to retain their current and future force complements. More than one-half of Florida Army Reserve National Guard units are combat units with the remainder in logistics, supply, and transportation specialties. Future unit acquisitions will experience a growth in more technical skill areas in RADAR and missile technology.

A consequence of this increase was the simultaneous repeal of the 50 percent assistance level, the effect of which would eliminate any such program should a 100 percent funding level not be provided by a subsequent Legislature in its annual appropriations act.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill restores the existence of a partial tuition assistance program which predated the 1997 statutory changes.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
