

By Mr. Morrissey of Quincy, petition of Michael W. Morrissey for legislation to establish an educational assistance program for residents of the Commonwealth who are members of an organized unit of the ready reserve of the armed forces of the United States. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH WHO ARE MEMBERS OF AN ORGANIZED UNIT OF THE READY RESERVE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Chapter 33 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
- 2 the following section: —
- 3 Section 138. There is hereby established an educational
- 4 assistance program for residents of the commonwealth who are
- 5 members of an organized unit of the ready reserve of the armed
- 6 forces of the United States. Said program shall be administered
- 7 by the board of higher education which shall have the authority
- 8 to issue a certificate of exemption from fifty per cent of the
- 9 matriculation fee and tuition to any Massachusetts resident who
- 10 is a member of an organized unit of the ready reserve of the armed
- 11 forces of the United States who is enrolled at any state institution
- 12 of higher education in a program the cost of which is borne by
- 13 the commonwealth and who is qualified as hereinafter provided.
- 14 Said certificate shall remain in effect one full academic year and
- 15 shall be renewed after the student has completed a full academic
- 16 year of work equal to thirty semester hours, in accordance with
- 17 regulations prescribed by said board: one certificate may therefore
- 18 be in effect for more than one year.

19 To receive benefits from the program, the members shall be a
20 member in good standing of an organized unit of the ready reserve
21 of the armed forces of the United States at the beginning of each
22 semester that benefits are payable and shall remain a member in
23 good standing of an organized unit of the ready reserve of the
24 armed forces of the United States throughout the entire semester
25 for which benefits are payable.

26 Assistance shall continue for the benefit of said member only
27 during such time as he remains a student in good standing at the
28 institution in which he is enrolled and in no event shall any student
29 receive the benefits for more than one hundred and thirty semester
30 hours.

31 Enrollment of a member in a course at said institutions shall
32 be dependent on the availability of seats. Availability of seats for
33 the purposes of this section shall mean vacancies that exist in a
34 course after the enrollment of all tuition paying students, and all
35 students who are enrolled under any scholarship or tuition waiver
36 provisions.