

KANSAS OFFICE *of*  
**REVISOR *of* STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Senate Committee on Education  
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Date: March 10, 2025  
Subject: HB 2185—National Guard Educational Assistance, NGEAA and EMERGE

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House Bill 2185 as Amended by House Committee would expand the scope of two higher education financial assistance programs for National Guard. First, the Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Act (NGEAA) would be expanded to include dependents of National Guard members. Second, the Kansas National Guard Educational Master's for Enhanced Readiness and Global Excellence (EMERGE) program would be expanded to include other graduate degree programs.

Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Act

The NGEAA provides financial assistance to guard members in an amount equal to tuition and fees for up to 15 credit hours each semester. Any award under the program is offset by any federal financial assistance provided for active National Guard membership.

Under HB 2185, dependents of National Guard members would be eligible for program benefits. A dependent would be defined as an individual who is sponsored by a member of the Kansas National Guard and who is registered as an eligible dependent of the sponsoring member in the defense enrollment eligibility reporting system (DEERS). To participate in the program, the dependent would be required to:

- Hold a high school diploma or a high school equivalency credential;
- Be enrolled at a Kansas postsecondary educational institution;
- Not hold a bachelor's degree or higher postsecondary degree; and
- Complete and submit the Kansas student aid application with the state board of regents.

Kansas National Guard Educational Master's for Enhanced Readiness and Global Excellence

Currently, the EMERGE program provides financial assistance for National Guard members who are accepted into a master's degree program at a postsecondary educational institution and requires participants to serve in good standing the National Guard for at least 48 months after completing their degree program.

Under HB 2185, the program would be expanded to include guard members who are accepted into professional degree program or doctorate degree program. A professional degree would be defined as a postgraduate degree program that requires more academic work than a master's degree but is not a doctorate degree. Additionally, participants in the new degree programs would be required to serve for 72 months and are subject to the higher 3.0 grade point average standard to remain eligible for the program.

Effective Date

HB 2185 would take effect on July 1, 2025, upon publication in the statute book.