STATE OF NEW YORK

11079

IN ASSEMBLY

April 24, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. RAMOS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to tuition benefit incentives for members of the New York state organized militia

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Technical Sergeant Joseph G. Lemm tuition benefit act".

§ 2. Subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 669-b of the education law, as added by chapter 268 of the laws of 1996, are amended to read as follows:

5. Any active member who currently possesses a [~~baccalaureate~~] **master's** degree or higher is ineligible for participation in the recruitment incentive program provided by this section.

7. Upon the recipient's attainment of a [~~baccalaureate~~] **post-secondary** degree **or diploma** or cessation of status as an active member, whichever occurs first, the benefit provided by this section shall be discontinued. The tuition benefit provided by this section may be suspended at the direction of the division of military and naval affairs for a recipient's failure to maintain good military standing as an active member, for the failure to maintain good academic progress and program pursuit, or for the failure to maintain sufficient academic standing to retain eligibility for any other financial assistance the recipient may be receiving.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the amendments to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 669-b of the education law made by section two of this act shall not affect the repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ***italics*** (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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