



NEWS RELEASE

SENATOR RICHARD DEVLIN

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 19

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Senate Unanimously Approves Education Benefits to National Guard Members

SALEM – The state Senate gave unanimous support Wednesday to a bill allowing Oregon National Guard members, when called to active duty, to withdraw from college classes without penalty, complete all classes left incomplete, and receive credit for room, board, tuition, and fees.

The bill, sponsored by **Senator Richard Devlin of Tualatin**, is designed to ensure National Guard service will not be an academic or financial setback to soldiers returning to studies at a community college or state university. Oregon has over 330 members currently attending college while maintaining their active participation in the National Guard.

“The state should show support for our Guard members by offering them the greatest number of tools to easily transition back from their service. Reducing the number of obstacles to completing higher education is one of the most important tools,” said Senator Devlin.

The Oregon National Guard, Oregon University System, Community College Association, Oregon Student Assistance Commission, and Oregon Health and Science University all have voiced their support for this bill.

Senate Bill 575 now moves to the House of Representatives.

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