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Gov. Wolf Eager to Sign PA GI Bill to Support Military Families

Harrisburg, PA – Governor Tom Wolf today commended the General Assembly for its work to advance the PA GI Bill to provide post-secondary educational credits for Pennsylvania Guard members' families. HB 1324 was voted unanimously out of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committee today and is another step closer to coming to the governor's desk.

"The General Assembly is close to making sure our Pennsylvania National Guard members are receiving the support they deserve through this important bill to support military families in their post-secondary education pursuits," Gov. Wolf said. "I look forward to this bill making its way to my desk soon."

"Thank you especially to Reps. Steven Barrar and Chris Sainato, and Sens. Mike Regan and Lindsey Williams, prime co-sponsors of the legislation and the chairs of the respective House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees, for their commitment to this legislation."

The PA GI Bill is another name for the PA National Guard Military Family Education Program, a program to provide a benefit that National Guard service members can earn to transfer to their spouse or children if the service member reenlists for service.

The benefit will provide assistance for up to 10 semesters or five years' equivalent of the in-state rate of PA State System of Higher Education schools.

This bill will enable the National Guard service members to transfer education benefits or defer the benefit by designating eligible beneficiaries up to the time that they complete their Guard service. Spouses will be eligible to use the educational benefit immediately or up to six years after the service member separates from the Guard.

The current education assistance program supports 2,212 National Guard members in over 161 educational institutions in the commonwealth, with over 42 percent attending PASSHE schools.

"I commend the committees for moving forward with this important piece of legislation to help our military families," Gov. Wolf said. "The military often states that 'we recruit soldiers and airmen but retain families.' The PA GI bill demonstrates that the commonwealth is committed to both and I look forward to signing it into law."

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