**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO APPROVE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, RELATING TO SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, DESIGNATED AS REGULATION DOCUMENT NUMBER 4533, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 23, TITLE 1 OF THE 1976 CODE.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. The regulations of the Commission on Higher Education, relating to South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program, designated as Regulation Document Number 4533, and submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Article 1, Chapter 23, Title 1 of the 1976 Code, are approved.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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SUMMARY AS SUBMITTED

BY PROMULGATING AGENCY.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Regulation 62‑250 through 62‑263 governs requirements for the operation and administration of the South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program under SC Code of Laws, Section 59‑114‑10 et seq. The program is administered by the Commission in coordination with the South Carolina National Guard and provides tuition assistance for eligible enlisted guard members enrolled in undergraduate programs. Amendments to the existing regulation incorporate changes enacted by Act 151 of 2014 effective April 7, 2014. These amendments include: 1) clarification that each academic year’s annual maximum grant must be based on the amount of available program funds; 2) a change in qualification such that a SC National Guard Member becomes qualified for program funding upon completion of Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training rather than upon enlistment; and 3) codification of a budget proviso enabling appropriations to the SC National Guard College Assistance Program are to be carried forward to a subsequent fiscal year and expended for the same purpose, and to be exempted from any midyear budget reductions. The amended regulation incorporates these changes and further clarifies procedures for administration of the program.

Notice of Drafting for the proposed amendments to the regulation was published in the *State Register* on June 27, 2014.

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