

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 442 Education Dollars for Duty Program by Senator Fasano

Removes duties of the Board of Governors and the State Board of Administration for the Education Dollars for Duty (EDD) program.

Provides for education assistance for members of the Florida National Guard who enroll in a private institution, as well as, in a public institution. Specifies that the program provides education assistance for enrolling in institutions of higher learning in the state which have been accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Revises the application requirements for the program to require that the applicant be an active drilling member and in good standing in the Florida National Guard. Requires that a member serve in the guard for the period specified in the member's enlistment or reenlistment contract. Provides that a member who has obtained a master's degree is ineligible to participate in the program. Provides that college preparatory courses are authorized for the program.

Authorizes the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to pay tuition and fees for current members of the Florida National Guard. Provides that members are eligible to use the program upon enlistment. Requires that the DMA pay the tuition and fees for a member enrolled in a nonpublic postsecondary institution which are equal to the amount that would be required to be paid for tuition and fees at a public postsecondary education institution. Specifies that inactive members of the Florida National Guard and members of the Individual Ready Reserve are not eligible to participate in the program.

Deletes provisions relating to the State Tuition Exemption Program (STEP). (See bill for details)