

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 9, 2020
TO: Residency Officers
FROM: Gail Wootanef
SUBJECT: New state residency laws for military-affiliated individuals

[Substitute House Bill 2543 \(2020\)](#) added to and modified residency law to increase the number of military-affiliated individuals who qualify for resident tuition in Washington. The following new groups of people will qualify for resident tuition effective June 11, 2020:

Spouses and dependents of active duty stationed in the state – RCW 28B.15.012(2)(i)

These individuals qualify for resident tuition if they are admitted to an institution and then the active duty member is stationed out-of-state before the term starts. The student must enroll in the term for which they were admitted to qualify.

Spouses and dependents of WA national guard - RCW 28B.15.012(2)(i)

- These individuals no longer need to live in Washington to qualify for resident tuition.
- They qualify for resident tuition if they are admitted to an institution and then the WA national guard member is stationed out-of-state before the term starts. The student must enroll in the term for which they were admitted to qualify.

Individuals who live in Washington and are spouses or dependents of active duty members who live in Washington and are stationed in an Oregon county that borders Washington - RCW 28B.15.012(2)(x)

These individuals qualify for resident tuition if they are admitted to an institution and then the active duty member moves from Washington or is re-assigned out of an Oregon border county before the term starts.

Spouses or dependents who are not eligible for or are not using VA educational benefits - RCW 28B.15.012(2)(p)

These individuals qualify for resident tuition if their relationship is to a veteran who had at least ten years of honorable service with at least 90 days of active duty service. The student must also enroll within three years of the veteran's military separation date. Neither the veteran nor the dependent need to live in Washington.

Military members who are on terminal leave – RCW 28B.15.012(2)(n)

Military members who are close to retirement or separation, but are on terminal leave (meaning they have completed military service but are technically still in the military because they are using up their vacation leave) qualify for resident tuition if they:

- Are eligible for VA educational assistance benefits,
- Had any period of honorable service, and
- Had at least 90 days of active duty service.

They do not need to live in Washington to qualify.

Veterans who identify as LGBTQ+ - RCW 28B.15.012(2)(q)

These individuals qualify for resident tuition if they are currently separated from the military and were discharged due to sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. They do not need to live in Washington.

As always, please contact me if you have questions about the contents of this memorandum.

Gail Wootan
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