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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 20, 2024

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Legislation to Assist National Guard Members Passes Legislature

MADISON – Today, the Assembly unanimously passed Senate Bill 744, legislation that makes the National Guard tuition grant program more accessible to students serving our state. Under this bill, instead of a reimbursement to the student, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) will pay tuition directly to the educational institution. Senate Bill 744 was approved by the Senate in January. With today’s vote, the bill passed the legislature and will be sent to the Governor’s desk. This legislation was authored by Representative Alex Joers (D-Middleton), who released the following statement:

“Several years ago, I learned that our students serving in the National Guard were faced with an issue that seemed to have a simple resolution. By law, National Guard members earned the ability to apply for tuition reimbursement, but only after their tuition was past due.

“This is an interesting concept since this is one of the only programs for our military-connected students that works this way. Until this bill becomes law, many National Guard members will have to take out expensive student loans to cover the financial gap until their reimbursement is received. That doesn’t make sense. With this legislation, we are streamlining that process, allowing our National Guard members to apply before their tuition is due.

“We owe the debt of gratitude to our Wisconsin National Guard. They are always ready, always there. Now it’s time for us to come together and be there for students serving in our National Guard.

“As a legislature, we can come together on issues that matter for Wisconsinites. This is just one example of dedication to a cause and not taking no for an answer. I truly hope that the passage of this bill alleviates financial hardship for those students who are choosing to serve our state and our nation.”

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