

**HB09-1290**  
**National Guard Tuition Assistance**

1. Tuition Assistance (TA) is the primary state recruiting incentive for the Colorado National Guard.
2. Currently we have 5051 member in the Colorado Air & Army National Guard
3. In the last 12 months DMVA provided support for 628 semesters of state TA which exhausted our appropriation of \$825,803.
4. DMVA had to defer payment of 136 semesters of state TA into FY 2008-09 (\$152,238).
5. In order to not exceed our \$825,803 in FY2008-09 DMVA has rationed the state TA at 80% of tuition for Spring 09 and no funding for Summer 09.
6. The Joint Budget Committee, during figure setting, approved a General Fund increase in DMVA state TA funding from \$175,803 to \$246,157.
7. This legislation would increase the transfer from Higher Education's Tuition Assistance from the current \$650,000 to \$800,000 providing a total appropriation of \$1,046,157.
8. This very closely matches the anticipated need for FY2009-10 which is 745 semesters of state TA for a total anticipated cost (@100% tuition) of \$1,140,595 (avg \$1,531/semester).
9. The increase from \$650,000 to \$800,000 has been approved by the Governor's Office of State Planning & Budgeting and the Department of Higher Education.

**Additional Information**

**Deployments:**

Recently returned:	544 Army National Guard 350 Air National Guard
2009 deployment:	621 Army National Guard 328 Air National Guard (on 24/7 Alert)