



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Maida Coleman  
5<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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## **Missouri Senate Advances Sen. Coleman's Bill to Limit College Tuition For Combat Veterans**

JEFFERSON CITY— The Missouri Senate today advanced legislation sponsored by Sen. Maida Coleman, D-St. Louis City, which limits the tuition that may be charged by a higher education institution to certain combat veterans. Senate Bill 830, known as the “Missouri Returning Heroes’ Education Act,” requires all higher education institutions in Missouri that receive state funding to limit the tuition charged to combat veterans to \$50 per credit hour. The bill defines a “combat veteran” as any person who served in armed combat after September 11, 2001, who was a Missouri resident when he or she first entered the military, and who was honorably discharged from the military.

“I think all Senators understand how much good this bill will do for our combat veterans,” Sen. Coleman said today during debate on the floor of the Missouri Senate. “This will help our combat veterans achieve their goals after they complete their service to our country. Too many veterans cannot afford to attend college when they return home, and unfortunately, the federal government is not doing as much as it can to help them.”

Under SB 830, an eligible combat veteran would receive the tuition limitation as long as that veteran achieves and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least 2 ½ points on a 4-point scale or its equivalent. The eligibility period for the tuition limitation expires 10 years from the date of the veteran’s last discharge from military service.

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“This is the third year we’ve tried to pass this legislation to help those who have sacrificed so much in the service of our country,” Sen. Coleman said. “I appreciate my Senate colleagues moving this bill forward as a way to say ‘thank you’ to the brave men and women from Missouri who answered this nation’s call to duty following the tragic events of September 11. We want to make sure that when they return home to Missouri they have every opportunity to resume their education.”

Coleman also notes SB 830 has the strong support of the Chairman of the Senate Pensions, Veterans’ Affairs and General Laws Committee, Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, who spoke in favor of the legislation on the floor today.

Today’s affirmative vote on SB 830 perfects the legislation. It must receive a third and final affirmative vote in the Senate before moving to the House for consideration.

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