



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Maida Coleman
5th Senate District

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Missouri Senate Unanimously Approves Sen. Coleman's Bill to Limit College Tuition for Combat Veterans

JEFFERSON CITY— The Missouri Senate today unanimously voted to approve 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. The House approved the bill on a 143-0 vote last week. Senators voted 32-0 today to send the measure to the governor.

“Obviously, my colleagues in the House and Senate know a good bill when they see it,” Sen. Coleman joked. “Seriously, this bill 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 just one 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,” Sen. Coleman said. “We want to make sure that when they return home to Missouri they have every opportunity to resume their education.”

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