

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 830
94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Pensions, Veterans' Affairs and General Laws, February 7, 2008, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

3061S.02C

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to combat veterans.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 173.900, to read as follows:

173.900. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Returning Heroes' Education Act".

2. For the purpose of this section, the term "combat veteran" shall mean a person who served in armed combat in the military after September 11, 2001, and to whom the following criteria shall apply:

(1) The veteran was a Missouri resident when first entering the military; and

(2) The veteran was discharged from military service under honorable conditions.

3. All institutions of higher education that receive any state funds whatsoever shall limit the amount of tuition such institutions charge to combat veterans to fifty dollars per credit hour, as long as the veteran achieves and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four point scale, or its equivalent. The tuition limitation shall only be applicable if the combat veteran is enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. The period during which a combat veteran is eligible for a tuition limitation under this section shall expire at the end of the ten-year period beginning on the date of such veteran's last discharge from service.

21 4. The coordinating board for higher education shall ensure that
22 all applicable institutions of higher education in this state comply with
23 the provisions of this section and may promulgate rules for the efficient
24 implementation of this section.

25 5. If a combat veteran is eligible to receive financial assistance
26 under any other federal or state student aid program, public or private,
27 the full amount of such aid shall be reported to the board by the
28 institution and the veteran. The tuition limitation under this section
29 shall be provided after all other federal and state aid for which the
30 veteran is eligible has been applied, and no combat veteran shall
31 receive more than the actual cost of attendance when the limitation is
32 combined with other aid made available to such veteran.

33 6. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
34 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this
35 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to
36 all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section
37 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable
38 and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to
39 chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to
40 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
41 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
42 adopted after August 28, 2008, shall be invalid and void.

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