SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 830

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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
2 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
2 **Heroes' Education Act".**

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

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

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

8 **3. All public institutions of higher education that receive any state funds**
9 **appropriated by the general assembly shall limit the amount of tuition such institutions**
10 **charge to combat veterans to fifty dollars per credit hour, as long as the veteran achieves**
11 **and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four**
12 **point scale, or its equivalent. The tuition limitation shall only be applicable if the combat**
13 **veteran is enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate**
14 **degree. The period during which a combat veteran is eligible for a tuition limitation under**

15   this section shall expire at the end of the ten-year period beginning on the date of such
16   veteran's last discharge from service.
17   4. The coordinating board for higher education shall ensure that all applicable
18   institutions of higher education in this state comply with the provisions of this section and
19   may promulgate rules for the efficient implementation of this section.
20   5. If a combat veteran is eligible to receive financial assistance under any other
21   federal or state student aid program, public or private, the full amount of such aid shall
22   be reported to the board by the institution and the veteran. The tuition limitation under
23   this section shall be provided after all other federal and state aid for which the veteran is
24   eligible has been applied, and no combat veteran shall receive more than the actual cost
25   of attendance when the limitation is combined with other aid made available to such
26   veteran.
27   6. Each institution may report to the board the amount of tuition waived in the
28   previous fiscal year under the provisions of this act. This information may be included in
29   each institution's request for appropriations to the board for the following year. The
30   board may include this information in its appropriations recommendations to the governor
31   and the general assembly. The general assembly may reimburse institutions for the cost
32   of the waiver for the previous year as part of the operating budget. Nothing in this
33   subsection shall be construed to deny a combat veteran a tuition limitation if the general
34   assembly does not appropriate money for reimbursement to an institution.
35   7. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo,
36   that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if
37   it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if
38   applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable
39   and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo,
40   to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
41   held unconstitutional, 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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