



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sen. David Pearce Files Bill Protecting Bright Flight Scholarships for Military Members

JEFFERSON CITY—On the opening day of the legislative session (1/6), Senator David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) filed a bill that would allow recipients of Bright Flight scholarships who are also members of the military to maintain eligibility for the scholarship—even if they cannot attend school immediately because of military service commitments.

[Senate Bill 733](#) specifies that if a scholarship recipient cannot attend an approved institution because of military service with the U.S. Armed Forces, the student will still be able to receive the scholarship if he or she returns to full-time status within six months of completing military service. Currently, the program requires a scholarship recipient to be enrolled full-time at a participating Missouri school and to receive the scholarship during the academic year immediately following his or her senior year in high school.

“It is unfair to revoke a scholarship from those who are defending this country because they are deployed or are otherwise unable to attend college within the traditional time-frame,” Sen. Pearce said. “We should be rewarding our military for their service, not punishing them. This bill would fix a loophole in a law that doesn’t allow for any deviation from the traditional, full-time student model.”

[The Bright Flight Scholarship Program](#) is a merit-based scholarship that encourages top-ranked Missouri high school seniors to attend approved Missouri colleges and universities.

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