



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Bill Protecting Bright Flight Scholarships for Military Members Advances to House**

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Senate today gave final approval to a bill sponsored by Sen. David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) 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, 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.

“The way the program is currently set up penalizes military members who are unable to attend college within the traditional time frame,” Sen. Pearce said. “These individuals may be deployed or otherwise committed to their military service, and we shouldn’t be holding that against them when it comes to college scholarships.”

[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.

Senate Bill 733 now moves to the House for similar consideration.

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