

# SB1889



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB1889

Introduced 2/10/2017, by Sen. Wm. Sam McCann

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/40

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Makes changes to the Illinois Veteran grant program to allow the child of a qualified applicant to access the grant program upon request of a qualified applicant. Makes conforming changes.

LRB100 10013 MLM 20185 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 40 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/40)

7 Sec. 40. Illinois Veteran grant program.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Qualified applicant" means a person who served in the  
10 Armed Forces of the United States, a Reserve component of the  
11 Armed Forces, or the Illinois National Guard, excluding members  
12 of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and those whose only  
13 service has been attendance at a service academy, and who meets  
14 all of the following qualifications:

15 (1) At the time of entering federal active duty service  
16 the person was one of the following:

17 (A) An Illinois resident.

18 (B) An Illinois resident within 6 months of  
19 entering such service.

20 (C) Enrolled at a State-controlled university or  
21 public community college in this State.

22 (2) The person meets one of the following requirements:

23 (A) He or she served at least one year of federal

1 active duty.

2 (B) He or she served less than one year of federal  
3 active duty and received an honorable discharge for  
4 medical reasons directly connected with such service.

5 (C) He or she served less than one year of federal  
6 active duty and was discharged prior to August 11,  
7 1967.

8 (D) He or she served less than one year of federal  
9 active duty in a foreign country during a time of  
10 hostilities in that foreign country.

11 (3) The person received an honorable discharge after  
12 leaving each period of federal active duty service.

13 (4) The person returned to this State within 6 months  
14 after leaving federal active duty service, or, if married  
15 to a person in continued military service stationed outside  
16 this State, returned to this State within 6 months after  
17 his or her spouse left service or was stationed within this  
18 State.

19 "Time of hostilities" means any action by the Armed Forces  
20 of the United States that is recognized by the issuance of a  
21 Presidential proclamation or a Presidential executive order  
22 and in which the Armed Forces expeditionary medal or other  
23 campaign service medals are awarded according to Presidential  
24 executive order.

25 (b) A person who otherwise qualifies under subsection (a)  
26 of this Section but has not left federal active duty service

1 and has served at least one year of federal active duty or has  
2 served for less than one year of federal active duty in a  
3 foreign country during a time of hostilities in that foreign  
4 country and who can provide documentation demonstrating an  
5 honorable service record is eligible to receive assistance  
6 under this Section. At the choosing of a qualified applicant,  
7 the child of a qualified applicant may access the entitlements  
8 provided under this Section instead.

9 (c) A qualified applicant or child of a qualified applicant  
10 is not required to pay any tuition or mandatory fees while  
11 attending a State-controlled university or public community  
12 college in this State for a period that is equivalent to 4  
13 years of full-time enrollment, including summer terms.

14 A qualified applicant or child of a qualified applicant who  
15 has previously received benefits under this Section for a  
16 non-mandatory fee shall continue to receive benefits covering  
17 such fees while he or she is enrolled in a continuous program  
18 of study. The qualified applicant or child of a qualified  
19 applicant shall no longer receive a grant covering  
20 non-mandatory fees if he or she fails to enroll during an  
21 academic term, unless he or she is serving federal active duty  
22 service.

23 (d) A qualified applicant or child of a qualified applicant  
24 who has been or is to be awarded assistance under this Section  
25 shall receive that assistance if the qualified applicant or  
26 child of a qualified applicant notifies his or her

1 postsecondary institution of that fact by the end of the school  
2 term for which assistance is requested.

3 (e) Assistance under this Section is considered an  
4 entitlement that the State-controlled college or public  
5 community college in which the qualified applicant or child of  
6 a qualified applicant is enrolled shall honor without any  
7 condition other than the qualified applicant's or child of a  
8 qualified applicant's maintenance of minimum grade levels and a  
9 satisfactory student loan repayment record pursuant to  
10 subsection (c) of Section 20 of this Act.

11 (f) The Commission shall administer the grant program  
12 established by this Section and shall make all necessary and  
13 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for its  
14 effective implementation.

15 (g) All applications for assistance under this Section must  
16 be made to the Commission on forms that the Commission shall  
17 provide. The Commission shall determine the form of application  
18 and the information required to be set forth in the  
19 application, and the Commission shall require qualified  
20 applicants to submit with their applications any supporting  
21 documents that the Commission deems necessary. Upon request,  
22 the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall assist the Commission  
23 in determining the eligibility of applicants for assistance  
24 under this Section.

25 (h) Assistance under this Section is available as long as  
26 the federal government provides educational benefits to

1 veterans. Assistance must not be paid under this Section after  
2 6 months following the termination of educational benefits to  
3 veterans by the federal government, except for persons who  
4 already have begun their education with assistance under this  
5 Section. If the federal government terminates educational  
6 benefits to veterans and at a later time resumes those  
7 benefits, assistance under this Section shall resume.

8 (Source: P.A. 94-583, eff. 8-15-05.)