

HB2187



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB2187

by Rep. Natalie A. Manley

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/40

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Expands the applicability of the Illinois Veteran grant program to a qualified applicant who is enrolled in a private business and vocational school in this State (rather than only to a qualified applicant who is enrolled in a State-controlled university or public community college in this State). Provides that if a qualified applicant is enrolled in a private business and vocational school in this State, he or she must, subject to the conditions of the grant program, receive a grant in an amount sufficient to pay the tuition and fees of that school for a period that is equivalent to 4 years of full-time enrollment, including summer terms. Effective immediately.

LRB101 05499 AXK 50514 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

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 "Private business and vocational school" has the meaning
10 given to that term under Section 15 of the Private Business and
11 Vocational Schools Act of 2012.

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

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

20 (A) An Illinois resident.

21 (B) An Illinois resident within 6 months of
22 entering such service.

23 (C) Enrolled at a State-controlled university, ~~or~~

1 public community college in this State, or private
2 business and vocational school in this State.

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

4 (A) He or she served at least one year of federal
5 active duty.

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

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

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

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

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

23 "Time of hostilities" means any action by the Armed Forces
24 of the United States that is recognized by the issuance of a
25 Presidential proclamation or a Presidential executive order
26 and in which the Armed Forces expeditionary medal or other

1 campaign service medals are awarded according to Presidential
2 executive order.

3 (b) A person who otherwise qualifies under subsection (a)
4 of this Section but has not left federal active duty service
5 and has served at least one year of federal active duty or has
6 served for less than one year of federal active duty in a
7 foreign country during a time of hostilities in that foreign
8 country and who can provide documentation demonstrating an
9 honorable service record is eligible to receive assistance
10 under this Section.

11 (c) A qualified applicant is not required to pay any
12 tuition or mandatory fees while attending a State-controlled
13 university or public community college in this State for a
14 period that is equivalent to 4 years of full-time enrollment,
15 including summer terms. If a qualified applicant is enrolled in
16 a private business and vocational school in this State, he or
17 she must, subject to the conditions under subsection (e),
18 receive a grant under this Section in an amount sufficient to
19 pay the tuition and mandatory fees of that school for a period
20 that is equivalent to 4 years of full-time enrollment,
21 including summer terms, but in no event may that grant amount
22 exceed the average tuition and mandatory fees for students at
23 State-controlled universities for that period, as calculated
24 by the Commission.

25 A qualified applicant who has previously received benefits
26 under this Section for a non-mandatory fee shall continue to

1 receive benefits covering such fees while he or she is enrolled
2 in a continuous program of study. The qualified applicant shall
3 no longer receive a grant covering non-mandatory fees if he or
4 she fails to enroll during an academic term, unless he or she
5 is serving federal active duty service.

6 (d) A qualified applicant who has been or is to be awarded
7 assistance under this Section shall receive that assistance if
8 the qualified applicant notifies his or her postsecondary
9 institution of that fact by the end of the school term for
10 which assistance is requested.

11 (e) Assistance under this Section is considered an
12 entitlement that the State-controlled college or public
13 community college in which the qualified applicant is enrolled
14 shall honor without any condition other than the qualified
15 applicant's maintenance of minimum grade levels and a
16 satisfactory student loan repayment record pursuant to
17 subsection (c) of Section 20 of this Act.

18 (f) The Commission shall administer the grant program
19 established by this Section and shall make all necessary and
20 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for its
21 effective implementation.

22 (g) All applications for assistance under this Section must
23 be made to the Commission on forms that the Commission shall
24 provide. The Commission shall determine the form of application
25 and the information required to be set forth in the
26 application, and the Commission shall require qualified

1 applicants to submit with their applications any supporting
2 documents that the Commission deems necessary. Upon request,
3 the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall assist the Commission
4 in determining the eligibility of applicants for assistance
5 under this Section.

6 (h) Assistance under this Section is available as long as
7 the federal government provides educational benefits to
8 veterans. Assistance must not be paid under this Section after
9 6 months following the termination of educational benefits to
10 veterans by the federal government, except for persons who
11 already have begun their education with assistance under this
12 Section. If the federal government terminates educational
13 benefits to veterans and at a later time resumes those
14 benefits, assistance under this Section shall resume.

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

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
17 becoming law.