

# SB1467



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB1467

Introduced 2/13/2019, by Sen. Patricia Van Pelt

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/40

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that a person is a qualified applicant if, despite not meeting other residency requirements, the applicant is a resident of Illinois at the time of application and at some point after leaving federal active duty service was a resident of Illinois for 15 consecutive years. Effective July 1, 2019.

LRB101 08315 CPF 53384 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 "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 of either paragraphs (1)  
15 through (4) or paragraphs (2) through (5):

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

18 (A) An Illinois resident.

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

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

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

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

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

6 (C) He or she served less than one year of federal  
7 active duty and was discharged prior to August 11,  
8 1967.

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

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

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

20 (5) The person does not meet the requirements of  
21 paragraph (1), but (i) is a resident of Illinois at the  
22 time of application and (ii) at some point after leaving  
23 federal active duty service was a resident of Illinois for  
24 15 consecutive years.

25 "Time of hostilities" means any action by the Armed Forces  
26 of the United States that is recognized by the issuance of a

1 Presidential proclamation or a Presidential executive order  
2 and in which the Armed Forces expeditionary medal or other  
3 campaign service medals are awarded according to Presidential  
4 executive order.

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

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

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

25 (d) A qualified applicant who has been or is to be awarded  
26 assistance under this Section shall receive that assistance if

1 the qualified applicant notifies his or her postsecondary  
2 institution of that fact by the end of the school term for  
3 which assistance is requested.

4 (e) Assistance under this Section is considered an  
5 entitlement that the State-controlled college or public  
6 community college in which the qualified applicant is enrolled  
7 shall honor without any condition other than the qualified  
8 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.)

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
10 2019.