

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 School Code is amended by changing Section
5 30-14.2 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/30-14.2) (from Ch. 122, par. 30-14.2)

7 Sec. 30-14.2. MIA/POW scholarships.

8 (a) Any spouse, natural child, legally adopted child, or
9 step-child of an eligible veteran or serviceperson who
10 possesses all necessary entrance requirements shall, upon
11 application and proper proof, be awarded a MIA/POW Scholarship
12 consisting of the equivalent of 4 calendar years of full-time
13 enrollment including summer terms, to the state supported
14 Illinois institution of higher learning of his choice, subject
15 to the restrictions listed below.

16 "Eligible veteran or serviceperson" means any veteran or
17 serviceperson, including an Illinois National Guard member who
18 is on active duty or is active on a training assignment, who
19 has been declared by the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S.
20 Department of Veterans Affairs to be a prisoner of war, be
21 missing in action, have died as the result of a
22 service-connected disability or have become a person with a
23 permanent disability from service-connected causes with 100%

1 disability and who (i) at the time of entering service was an
2 Illinois resident, (ii) was an Illinois resident within 6
3 months after entering such service, or (iii) is a resident of
4 Illinois at the time of application for the Scholarship and, at
5 some point after leaving such service, was a resident of
6 Illinois for at least 15 consecutive years ~~until July 1, 2014,~~
7 ~~became an Illinois resident within 6 months after leaving the~~
8 ~~service and can establish at least 30 years of continuous~~
9 ~~residency in the State of Illinois.~~

10 Full-time enrollment means 12 or more semester hours of
11 courses per semester, or 12 or more quarter hours of courses
12 per quarter, or the equivalent thereof per term. Scholarships
13 utilized by dependents enrolled in less than full-time study
14 shall be computed in the proportion which the number of hours
15 so carried bears to full-time enrollment.

16 Scholarships awarded under this Section may be used by a
17 spouse or child without regard to his or her age. The holder of
18 a Scholarship awarded under this Section shall be subject to
19 all examinations and academic standards, including the
20 maintenance of minimum grade levels, that are applicable
21 generally to other enrolled students at the Illinois
22 institution of higher learning where the Scholarship is being
23 used. If the surviving spouse remarries or if there is a
24 divorce between the veteran or serviceperson and his or her
25 spouse while the dependent is pursuing his or her course of
26 study, Scholarship benefits will be terminated at the end of

1 the term for which he or she is presently enrolled. Such
2 dependents shall also be entitled, upon proper proof and
3 application, to enroll in any extension course offered by a
4 State supported Illinois institution of higher learning
5 without payment of tuition and approved fees.

6 The holder of a MIA/POW Scholarship authorized under this
7 Section shall not be required to pay any matriculation or
8 application fees, tuition, activities fees, graduation fees or
9 other fees, except multipurpose building fees or similar fees
10 for supplies and materials.

11 Any dependent who has been or shall be awarded a MIA/POW
12 Scholarship shall be reimbursed by the appropriate institution
13 of higher learning for any fees which he or she has paid and
14 for which exemption is granted under this Section if
15 application for reimbursement is made within 2 months following
16 the end of the school term for which the fees were paid.

17 (b) In lieu of the benefit provided in subsection (a), any
18 spouse, natural child, legally adopted child, or step-child of
19 an eligible veteran or serviceperson, which spouse or child has
20 a physical, mental or developmental disability, shall be
21 entitled to receive, upon application and proper proof, a
22 benefit to be used for the purpose of defraying the cost of the
23 attendance or treatment of such spouse or child at one or more
24 appropriate therapeutic, rehabilitative or educational
25 facilities. The application and proof may be made by the parent
26 or legal guardian of the spouse or child on his or her behalf.

1 The total benefit provided to any beneficiary under this
2 subsection shall not exceed the cost equivalent of 4 calendar
3 years of full-time enrollment, including summer terms, at the
4 University of Illinois. Whenever practicable in the opinion of
5 the Department of Veterans' Affairs, payment of benefits under
6 this subsection shall be made directly to the facility, the
7 cost of attendance or treatment at which is being defrayed, as
8 such costs accrue.

9 (c) The benefits of this Section shall be administered by
10 and paid for out of funds made available to the Illinois
11 Department of Veterans' Affairs. The amounts that become due to
12 any state supported Illinois institution of higher learning
13 shall be payable by the Comptroller to such institution on
14 vouchers approved by the Illinois Department of Veterans'
15 Affairs. The amounts that become due under subsection (b) of
16 this Section shall be payable by warrant upon vouchers issued
17 by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and approved by
18 the Comptroller. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
19 shall determine the eligibility of the persons who make
20 application for the benefits provided for in this Section.

21 (Source: P.A. 99-78, eff. 7-20-15; 99-143, eff. 7-27-15;
22 100-201, eff. 8-18-17.)

23 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
24 amended by changing Section 40 as follows:

1 (110 ILCS 947/40)

2 Sec. 40. Illinois Veteran grant program.

3 (a) As used in this Section:

4 "Qualified applicant" means a person who served in the
5 Armed Forces of the United States, a Reserve component of the
6 Armed Forces, or the Illinois National Guard, excluding members
7 of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and those whose only
8 service has been attendance at a service academy, and who meets
9 all of the ~~following~~ qualifications of either paragraphs (1)
10 through (4) or paragraphs (2), (3), and (5):

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

13 (A) An Illinois resident.

14 (B) An Illinois resident within 6 months of
15 entering such service.

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

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

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

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

24 (C) He or she served less than one year of federal
25 active duty and was discharged prior to August 11,
26 1967.

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

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

6 (4) The person returned to this State within 6 months
7 after leaving federal active duty service, or, if married
8 to a person in continued military service stationed outside
9 this State, returned to this State within 6 months after
10 his or her spouse left service or was stationed within this
11 State.

12 (5) The person does not meet the requirements of
13 paragraph (1), but (i) is a resident of Illinois at the
14 time of application to the Commission and (ii) at some
15 point after leaving federal active duty service, was a
16 resident of Illinois for at least 15 consecutive years.

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

23 (b) A person who otherwise qualifies under subsection (a)
24 of this Section but has not left federal active duty service
25 and has served at least one year of federal active duty or has
26 served for less than one year of federal active duty in a

1 foreign country during a time of hostilities in that foreign
2 country and who can provide documentation demonstrating an
3 honorable service record is eligible to receive assistance
4 under this Section.

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

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

17 (d) A qualified applicant who has been or is to be awarded
18 assistance under this Section shall receive that assistance if
19 the qualified applicant notifies his or her postsecondary
20 institution of that fact by the end of the school term for
21 which assistance is requested.

22 (e) Assistance under this Section is considered an
23 entitlement that the State-controlled college or public
24 community college in which the qualified applicant is enrolled
25 shall honor without any condition other than the qualified
26 applicant's maintenance of minimum grade levels and a

1 satisfactory student loan repayment record pursuant to
2 subsection (c) of Section 20 of this Act.

3 (f) The Commission shall administer the grant program
4 established by this Section and shall make all necessary and
5 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for its
6 effective implementation.

7 (g) All applications for assistance under this Section must
8 be made to the Commission on forms that the Commission shall
9 provide. The Commission shall determine the form of application
10 and the information required to be set forth in the
11 application, and the Commission shall require qualified
12 applicants to submit with their applications any supporting
13 documents that the Commission deems necessary. Upon request,
14 the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall assist the Commission
15 in determining the eligibility of applicants for assistance
16 under this Section.

17 (h) Assistance under this Section is available as long as
18 the federal government provides educational benefits to
19 veterans. Assistance must not be paid under this Section after
20 6 months following the termination of educational benefits to
21 veterans by the federal government, except for persons who
22 already have begun their education with assistance under this
23 Section. If the federal government terminates educational
24 benefits to veterans and at a later time resumes those
25 benefits, assistance under this Section shall resume.

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

1 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
2 2019.