

HB2580



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB2580

Introduced 2/19/2021, by Rep. Mike Murphy

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/30-14.2

from Ch. 122, par. 30-14.2

Amends the Scholarships Article of the School Code. With respect to MIA/POW scholarships, expands the definition of "eligible veteran or serviceperson" to include any veteran or serviceperson who has been awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

LRB102 11411 CMG 16744 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 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 and Purple Heart 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 and Purple
12 Heart Scholarship consisting of the equivalent of 4 calendar
13 years of full-time enrollment including summer terms, to the
14 state supported Illinois institution of higher learning of his
15 choice, subject 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 awarded the Purple Heart Medal or has been declared by
20 the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Department of
21 Veterans Affairs to be a prisoner of war, be missing in action,
22 have died as the result of a service-connected disability, or
23 have become a person with a permanent disability from

1 service-connected causes with 100% disability and who (i) at
2 the time of entering service was an Illinois resident, (ii)
3 was an Illinois resident within 6 months after entering such
4 service, or (iii) is a resident of Illinois at the time of
5 application for the Scholarship and, at some point after
6 leaving such service, was a resident of Illinois for at least
7 15 consecutive years.

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

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

1 application, to enroll in any extension course offered by a
2 State supported Illinois institution of higher learning
3 without payment of tuition and approved fees.

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

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

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

22 (Source: P.A. 100-201, eff. 8-18-17; 101-334, eff. 8-9-19.)