



HR0577

LRB095 12618 RAS 37896 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois honors Illinois veterans for
3 service in the United States Armed Services, the Illinois
4 National Guard, and the Illinois Naval Militia with grants and
5 scholarships to attend Illinois community colleges and public
6 universities; and

7 WHEREAS, The Illinois Veteran Grant Program pays eligible
8 tuition and certain fees for undergraduate study at any
9 Illinois community college or public university for Illinois
10 residents who qualify; a qualified applicant is any member of
11 the Armed Forces of the United States who has served at least
12 one year of active duty and whose separation from such service
13 has been characterized as honorable; and

14 WHEREAS, The Illinois National Guard and Naval Militia
15 Grant Program pays tuition and eligible fees at all Illinois
16 community colleges or public universities; a qualified
17 applicant must be on active status and have served for at least
18 one year in the Illinois National Guard or the Illinois Naval
19 Militia; and

20 WHEREAS, The MIA-POW Scholarship Program for dependents of
21 Illinois residents declared to be missing in action or
22 prisoners of war pays all tuition and fees at any Illinois

1 community college or public university; and

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois Veteran Grant Program, the Illinois
3 National Guard and Naval Militia Grant Program, and the MIA-POW
4 Scholarship Program are all considered entitlement grants;
5 thus, if the General Assembly does not fully fund these
6 programs to cover all expenses, the community college or public
7 university must waive all tuition and fees on behalf of that
8 student; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges and public
10 universities must raise tuition and fees in order to compensate
11 for unfunded mandates placed upon them by the Governor's
12 budget; and

13 WHEREAS, It is not fiscally responsible for the Governor to
14 increase government spending while other parts of the budget
15 continue to be underfunded; and

16 WHEREAS, The FY06 budget underfunded these veterans'
17 programs by \$13.6 million; the FY07 shortfall is expected to
18 reach approximately \$14.5 million; with the projected increase
19 in the number of veterans qualifying for these benefits, the
20 shortfall is expected to rise somewhere between \$15 million and
21 \$18 million in FY08; public institutions will have no recourse
22 but to further raise already inflated tuition and fee rates for

1 all Illinois students to cover the increasing costs of such
2 programs; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 the community colleges and public universities of the State of
6 Illinois are entitled to reimbursement for the costs incurred
7 in the administration of the Illinois Veteran Grant Program,
8 the Illinois National Guard and Naval Militia Grant Program,
9 and the MIA-POW Scholarship Program; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly recommends that the
11 budget fully reimburse community colleges and public
12 universities for the costs incurred in the administration of
13 the Illinois Veteran Grant Program, the Illinois National Guard
14 and Naval Militia Grant Program, and the MIA-POW Scholarship
15 Program; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges the quick passage
17 of House Bill 479, which creates the Appropriation for Military
18 Scholarships Act that provides that beginning with the budget
19 for Fiscal Year 2009, the Governor must include a General
20 Revenue Fund recommendation in the annual budget sufficient to
21 reimburse institutions of higher learning in this State for not
22 charging students tuition and fees under the Illinois Veterans
23 Grant Program, the Illinois National Guard and Naval Militia

1 Grant Program, and the MIA-POW Scholarship Program; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 delivered to the Governor, the Board of Higher Education, the
5 Illinois Community College Board, the president of each
6 community college of the State, and the president of each
7 public university of the State.