

1 AN ACT relating to higher education student assistance.

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  
5 is amended by changing Section 40 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/40)

7 Sec. 40. Veteran grant. Any person (i) who served in the  
8 armed forces of the United States, not including members of  
9 the Student Army Training Corps, (ii) who at the time of  
10 entering service was an Illinois resident or was an Illinois  
11 resident within 6 months of entering such service, (iii) and  
12 who returned to Illinois within 6 months after leaving  
13 service or, if married to a person in continued military  
14 service stationed outside Illinois, within 6 months after his  
15 or her spouse has left service or has been stationed within  
16 Illinois, (iv) and who has been honorably discharged from  
17 such service or has received a general discharge from such  
18 service under honorable conditions, and (v) who possesses all  
19 necessary entrance requirements shall, except as otherwise  
20 provided in this Act, upon application and proper proof, be  
21 awarded an Illinois Veteran Grant consisting of the  
22 equivalent of 4 calendar years of full-time enrollment,  
23 including summer terms, to the State-controlled college or  
24 university or community college of his choice. Such veterans  
25 shall also be entitled, upon proper proof and application, to  
26 enroll in any extension course offered by a State-controlled  
27 college or university or community college without the  
28 payment of tuition or fees.

29 Any veteran who so served, and who, at the time of  
30 entering such service, was a student at a State-controlled  
31 college or university or community college, and who was

1   honorably discharged from such service or received a general  
2   discharge from such service under honorable conditions,  
3   shall, upon application and proper proof be awarded a Veteran  
4   Grant entitling him to complete his course of study at any  
5   State-controlled college or university or community college  
6   of his choice, but shall not be entitled to a grant  
7   consisting of more than the equivalent of 4 calendar years of  
8   full-time enrollment including summer sessions.

9       Any member of the armed forces of the United States who  
10   either (i) has served in such armed forces at least one year,  
11   or (ii) has served in the armed forces of the United States  
12   for less than one year in a time of hostilities in a foreign  
13   country, and who would be qualified for a grant under this  
14   Section if he had been discharged from such service shall be  
15   eligible to receive a Veteran Grant under this Section.

16       The holder of a Veteran Grant to the State-controlled  
17   college or university or community college of his choice as  
18   authorized under this Section shall not be required to pay  
19   any matriculation or application fees, tuition, activities  
20   fees, graduation fees, or other fees except multipurpose  
21   building fees or similar fees for supplies and materials.

22       Any veteran who has been or shall be awarded a Veteran  
23   Grant shall be reimbursed by the appropriate college,  
24   university, or community college for any fees which he has  
25   paid and for which exemption is granted under this Section,  
26   if application for reimbursement is made within 2 months  
27   following the school term for which the fees were paid.

28       A Veteran Grant shall be considered an entitlement which  
29   the State-controlled college or university or community  
30   college in which the holder is enrolled shall honor without  
31   any condition other than the holder's maintenance of minimum  
32   grade levels and a satisfactory student loan repayment record  
33   pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 20.

34       A grant authorized under this Section shall not be

1 awarded to veterans who received a discharge from the armed  
2 forces of the United States under dishonorable conditions, or  
3 to any veteran whose service with the armed forces was for  
4 less than one year unless he received an honorable discharge  
5 or a general discharge under honorable conditions from such  
6 service for medical reasons directly connected with such  
7 service, except for those veterans discharged prior to August  
8 11, 1967 whose service may be for less than one year, and  
9 except for those veterans (i) who serve in the armed forces  
10 of the United States for less than one year in a time of  
11 hostilities in a foreign country and (ii) who receive an  
12 honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable  
13 conditions.

14 The amounts that become due to any State-controlled  
15 college or university or community college shall be payable  
16 by the Comptroller to that institution on vouchers approved  
17 by the Commission. The Commission, or its designated  
18 representative at that institution, shall determine the  
19 eligibility of the persons who make application for the  
20 benefits provided for in this Section. The Department of  
21 Veterans' Affairs shall assist the Commission in determining  
22 the eligibility of applicants. On July 29, 1986, the  
23 Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs shall transfer and  
24 deliver to the Commission all books, records, papers,  
25 documents, applications and pending business in any way  
26 pertaining to the duties, responsibilities and authority  
27 theretofore exercised or performed by the Illinois Department  
28 of Veterans' Affairs under and pursuant to Section 4.1 of the  
29 Department of Veterans Affairs Act.

30 The benefits provided for in this Section shall be  
31 available as long as the federal government provides  
32 educational benefits to veterans. No benefits shall be paid  
33 under this Section, except for veterans who already have  
34 begun their education under this Section, after 6 months

1 following the termination of educational benefits to veterans  
2 by the federal government. If the federal government  
3 terminates educational benefits to veterans and at a later  
4 time resumes those benefits, the benefits of this Section  
5 shall resume.

6 As used in this Section, "time of hostilities in a  
7 foreign country" means any action by the armed forces of the  
8 United States that is recognized by the issuance of a  
9 Presidential proclamation or a Presidential executive order  
10 and in which the armed forces expeditionary medal or other  
11 campaign service medals are awarded according to Presidential  
12 executive order.

13 (Source: P.A. 90-752, eff. 8-14-98; 91-496, eff. 8-13-99.)