

**HB2572**



**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2025 and 2026**

**HB2572**

Introduced 2/4/2025, by Rep. Brandun Schweizer

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

105 ILCS 5/30-14.2  
330 ILCS 105/2

from Ch. 122, par. 30-14.2  
from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 27

Amends the School Code and the Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans' Dependents Educational Opportunity Grant Act. In provisions concerning the Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans' Dependents scholarship and the Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans' Dependents Educational Opportunity Grant program, provides that the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall determine, by rule, the eligibility of the persons who apply for the scholarship or grant (rather than the Department shall determine the eligibility of the persons who apply for the scholarship or grant).

LRB104 10059 KTG 20130 b

**A BILL FOR**

1           AN ACT concerning veterans.

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. Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans'  
8           Dependents scholarship.

9           (a) Any spouse, natural child, legally adopted child under  
10          the age of 18 at the time of adoption, minor child younger than  
11          18 who is under a court-ordered guardianship for at least 2  
12          continuous years prior to application, or step-child under the  
13          age of 18 at the time of marriage of an eligible veteran or  
14          serviceperson who possesses all necessary entrance  
15          requirements shall, upon application and proper proof, be  
16          awarded a MIA/POW Scholarship consisting of the equivalent of  
17          4 calendar years of full-time enrollment including summer  
18          terms, to the state supported Illinois institution of higher  
19          learning of his choice, subject to the restrictions listed  
20          below.

21           "Eligible veteran or serviceperson" means any veteran or  
22          serviceperson, including an Illinois National Guard member who  
23          is on active duty or is active on a training assignment, who

1 has been declared by the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S.  
2 Department of Veterans Affairs to be a prisoner of war or  
3 missing in action, or has died as the result of a  
4 service-connected disability or has become a person with a  
5 permanent disability from service-connected causes with 100%  
6 disability and who (i) at the time of entering service was an  
7 Illinois resident, or (ii) was an Illinois resident within 6  
8 months after entering such service, or (iii) is a resident of  
9 Illinois at the time of application for the Scholarship and,  
10 at some point after entering such service, was a resident of  
11 Illinois for at least 15 consecutive years.

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

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

1 spouse while the dependent is pursuing his or her course of  
2 study, Scholarship benefits will be terminated at the end of  
3 the term for which he or she is presently enrolled. Such  
4 dependents shall also be entitled, upon proper proof and  
5 application, to enroll in any extension course offered by a  
6 State supported Illinois institution of higher learning  
7 without payment of tuition and approved fees.

8 The holder of a MIA/POW Scholarship authorized under this  
9 Section shall not be required to pay any tuition or mandatory  
10 fees while attending a State-controlled university or public  
11 community college in this State for a period equivalent to 4  
12 years of enrollment, including summer terms.

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

20 (b) In lieu of the benefit provided in subsection (a), any  
21 spouse, natural child, legally adopted child, or step-child of  
22 an eligible veteran or serviceperson, which spouse or child  
23 has a physical, mental or developmental disability, shall be  
24 entitled to receive, upon application and proper proof, a  
25 benefit to be used for the purpose of defraying the cost of the  
26 attendance or treatment of such spouse or child at one or more

1 appropriate therapeutic, rehabilitative or educational  
2 facilities. The application and proof may be made by the  
3 parent or legal guardian of the spouse or child on his or her  
4 behalf.

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

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

26 (Source: P.A. 101-334, eff. 8-9-19; 102-855, eff. 5-13-22.)

1           Section 10. The Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans'  
2           Dependents Educational Opportunity Grant Act is amended by  
3           changing Section 2 as follows:

4           (330 ILCS 105/2) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 27)

5           Sec. 2. The amounts that become due to any child under this  
6           Act, not in excess of the amount specified in Section 1 of this  
7           Act, shall be payable to such child or, if such child is a  
8           minor, to the eligible veteran or serviceperson or guardian on  
9           vouchers approved by the Illinois Department of Veterans'  
10           Affairs. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs shall  
11           adopt rules on how to render payments to eligible minor  
12           children of deceased veterans or servicepersons. The  
13           Department shall determine, by rule, the eligibility of the  
14           children who make application for the benefits provided for in  
15           this Act; and satisfy itself of the attendance of such  
16           children at any such institution or school.

17           (Source: P.A. 102-855, eff. 5-13-22.)