

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.)