



93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
State of Illinois
2003 and 2004

Introduced 2/6/2004, by Don Harmon

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/40

Amends the Higher Education Assistance Act. Makes a technical change concerning veterans grants.

SDS093 00057 LMT 40008 b

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 Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by changing Section 40 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/40)

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

27 Any veteran who so served, and who, at the time of entering
28 such service, was a student at a State-controlled college or
29 university or community college, and who was honorably
30 discharged from such service, shall, upon application and
31 proper proof be awarded a Veteran Grant entitling him to
32 complete his course of study at any State-controlled college or

1 university or community college of his choice, but shall not be
2 entitled to a grant consisting of more than the equivalent of 4
3 calendar years of full-time enrollment including summer
4 sessions.

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

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

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

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

30 A grant authorized under this Section shall not be awarded
31 to veterans who received a discharge from the armed forces of
32 the United States under dishonorable conditions, or to any
33 veteran whose service with the armed forces was for less than
34 one year unless he received an honorable discharge from such
35 service for medical reasons directly connected with such
36 service, except for those veterans discharged prior to August

1 11, 1967 whose service may be for less than one year, and
2 except for those veterans (i) who serve in the armed forces of
3 the United States for less than one year in a time of
4 hostilities in a foreign country and (ii) who receive an
5 honorable discharge.

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

21 The benefits provided for in this Section shall be
22 available as long as the federal government provides
23 educational benefits to veterans. No benefits shall be paid
24 under this Section, except for veterans who already have begun
25 their education under this Section, after 6 months following
26 the termination of educational benefits to veterans by the
27 federal government. If the federal government terminates
28 educational benefits to veterans and at a later time resumes
29 those benefits, the benefits of this Section shall resume.

30 As used in this Section, "time of hostilities in a foreign
31 country" means any action by the armed forces of the United
32 States that is recognized by the issuance of a Presidential
33 proclamation or a Presidential executive order and in which the
34 armed forces expeditionary medal or other campaign service
35 medals are awarded according to Presidential executive order.

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