

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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 adding Section 48 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/48 new)

7 Sec. 48. Tuition and fee exemption for children of wounded
8 warriors.

9 (a) This Section applies to the following persons:

10 (1) A person:

11 (A) whose mother or father:

12 (i) served in the armed forces of the United
13 States;

14 (ii) received the Purple Heart decoration or
15 was wounded as a result of enemy action;

16 (iii) received a discharge or separation from
17 the armed forces, other than a dishonorable
18 discharge; and

19 (iv) either designated this State as home of
20 record at the time of enlistment in the armed
21 forces of the United States or resided in this
22 State at least 5 years before the person first
23 applies for benefits under this Section;

1 (B) who is eligible to pay the resident tuition
2 rate at the State university the person will attend as
3 determined by the university;

4 (C) who possesses the requisite academic
5 qualifications;

6 (D) who, if the person was adopted by the person's
7 mother or father, was adopted before the person was 18
8 years of age; and

9 (E) who is not more than 32 years of age when the
10 person first applies and becomes eligible for benefits
11 under this Section.

12 (2) A person:

13 (A) whose mother or father:

14 (i) served in the armed forces of the United
15 States during a war or performed duty equally
16 hazardous that was recognized by the award of a
17 service or campaign medal of the United States;

18 (ii) suffered a service connected death or
19 disability as determined by the United States
20 Department of Veterans Affairs;

21 (iii) received a discharge or separation from
22 the armed forces, other than a dishonorable
23 discharge; and

24 (iv) either listed this State as home of record
25 at the time of enlistment in the armed forces of
26 the United States or resided in this State at least

1 5 years before the person first applies for
2 benefits under this Section;

3 (B) who is eligible to pay the resident tuition
4 rate at the State university the person will attend, as
5 determined by the university;

6 (C) who possesses the requisite academic
7 qualifications;

8 (D) who, if the person was adopted by the person's
9 mother or father, was adopted before the person was 18
10 years of age; and

11 (E) who is not more than 32 years of age when the
12 person first applies and becomes eligible for benefits
13 under this Section.

14 (b) Subject to the other provisions of this subsection (b)
15 and subsection (c) of this Section, an eligible applicant to
16 which this Section applies is entitled to enter into, remain
17 at, and receive instruction at a State university upon the same
18 conditions, qualifications, and rules prescribed for other
19 applicants for admission to or students at the State university
20 without the payment of any tuition and fees for 124 semester
21 credit hours at the State university. The maximum amount that
22 an eligible applicant is exempt from paying for a semester hour
23 is an amount equal to the cost of an undergraduate semester
24 credit hour at the State university in which the eligible
25 applicant enrolls.

26 This subsection (b) applies only to an individual who

1 qualifies for a benefit under this Section because of a father
2 or mother who enlisted or otherwise initially served in the
3 armed forces of the United States. Subject to the other
4 provisions of this subsection (b), any benefits awarded under
5 this Section may not be renewed if the eligible individual
6 fails to maintain at least the following cumulative grade point
7 average:

8 (1) For credit hours applicable to the equivalent of
9 the applicant's freshman academic year, a cumulative grade
10 point average that the State university determines is
11 satisfactory academic progress.

12 (2) For credit hours applicable to the equivalent of
13 the applicant's sophomore academic year, a cumulative
14 grade point average of 2.25 on a 4.0 grading scale or its
15 equivalent as established by the State university.

16 (3) For credit hours applicable to the equivalent of
17 the applicant's junior or senior academic year, a
18 cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 grading
19 scale or its equivalent as established by the State
20 university.

21 After the first semester or its equivalent at the State
22 university that a person does not achieve the requisite
23 cumulative grade point average specified in this subsection
24 (b), the person is considered to be on probation and must
25 achieve the requisite cumulative grade point average by the
26 next semester or its equivalent at the State university in

1 order to continue to receive benefits under this Section.

2 (c) This subsection (c) applies to an individual who
3 qualifies as an eligible applicant under subdivision (2) of
4 subsection (a) of this Section because the individual's father
5 or mother (i) enlisted or otherwise initially served in the
6 armed forces of the United States after June 30, 2011 and (ii)
7 suffered a disability as determined by the United States
8 Department of Veterans Affairs. This subsection (c) does not
9 apply to an individual who (i) is an eligible applicant under
10 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this Section and (ii)
11 qualifies as an eligible applicant under subdivision (1) of
12 subsection (a) of this Section.

13 Subject to the other provisions of this subsection (c) and
14 subsection (b) of this Section, the eligible applicant is
15 entitled to a reduction in the tuition and fees that would
16 otherwise apply as follows:

17 (1) If the individual's father or mother suffered a
18 disability as determined by the United States Department of
19 Veterans Affairs with a rating of 80% or more, the
20 individual is entitled to a 100% reduction in education
21 costs.

22 (2) If the individual's father or mother suffered a
23 disability as determined by the United States Department of
24 Veterans Affairs with a rating of less than 80%, the
25 individual is entitled to a reduction in education costs
26 equal to the sum of 20%, plus the disability rating of the

1 individual's father or mother.

2 The latest disability rating determined by the United
3 States Department of Veterans Affairs for an individual's
4 father or mother shall be used to compute the percentage by
5 which education costs are reduced under this subsection (c). If
6 the disability rating of the individual's father or mother
7 changes after the beginning of an academic semester, quarter,
8 or other period for which tuition and fees have been reduced
9 under this subsection (c), the change in disability rating
10 shall be applied beginning with the immediately following
11 academic semester, quarter, or other period.

12 (d) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to
13 implement this Section.