

HB 957 -- War on Terror Veteran Survivor Grants

Sponsor: Cunningham (145)

This bill creates a grant program for survivors of veterans who died in or as a result of the war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq. Up to 25 grants may be given annually, with the option to petition the General Assembly for more grants if the waiting list exceeds 50. The grant may be used for programs at public postsecondary institutions that lead to a certificate, associate, or first bachelor's degree. The grant will pay for up to 100% of the tuition, room and board, and cost of books, in combination with other aid. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education will administer the program. Survivors will be certified as eligible by a state veterans service officer or a Veterans Administration medical authority, depending on the circumstances of the veteran's death. The grant program will expire on August 28, 2034. After December 31, 2010, the program will not confer benefits on those 25 years of age or older, except for spouses, who remain eligible up to age 40.