

HB 421 -- National Guard Family Education Grants

Sponsor: Smith (14)

This bill allows children of a member of the Missouri National Guard or a Missouri reservist with the United States Reserves to receive a grant for tuition at a public college or university in Missouri if the parent is deployed in support of the war on terrorism. The child must meet specific financial guidelines established by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to be eligible for the grant.

The spouse of a member of the Missouri National Guard or the reserves is also eligible to receive a grant if the guardsman or reservist is injured while deployed in support of the war on terrorism. The extent of the injury and its effect on the soldier's ability to return to his or her profession after discharge from the military must meet specific guidelines established by the board.

The grants will include the full cost of tuition at a public Missouri college or university, a \$2,000 allowance for room and board per semester, and the actual cost of books up to \$500 per semester. No grant will be awarded for more than 100% of the cost of tuition and books when combined with similar funds given to the grantee. In order to be eligible to receive a grant, the child or spouse must be certified by a Missouri National Guard officer or a designee of the Missouri Veterans Commission. Children will be eligible to apply for this grant until they reach the age of 25.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date.