

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1518

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CUNNINGHAM (145).

Pre-filed January 3, 2008 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

4096L.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to tuition.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 173.234, to read as follows:

173.234. 1. As used in this section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the
2 **following terms shall mean:**

3 **(1) "Board", the coordinating board for higher education;**

4 **(2) "Eligible student", the natural, adopted, or stepchild of a qualifying military**
5 **member, who is less than twenty-five years of age and who was a dependent of a qualifying**
6 **military member at the time of death or injury, or the spouse of a qualifying member who**
7 **is less than forty-five years of age;**

8 **(3) "Grant", the military member survivor grant as established by this section;**

9 **(4) "Qualifying institution", any approved Missouri public or private institution**
10 **of postsecondary education as defined in section 173.1102;**

11 **(5) "Qualifying military member", any member of the military of the United States,**
12 **whether active duty, reserve, or national guard, who served in the military after September**
13 **11, 2001, during a time of war and for whom the following criteria apply:**

14 **(a) The veteran was a Missouri resident when first entering the military service and**
15 **at the time of death; and**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 (b) The veteran died as a result of combat action or the veteran's death was
17 certified by the Veterans Administration medical authority to be attributable to an illness
18 or accident that occurred while serving in combat, or who became eighty percent disabled
19 as a result of injuries or accidents sustained in combat action after September 11, 2001, and
20 who was at the time of death or injury a citizen of the state of Missouri;

21 (6) "Tuition", any tuition or incidental fee or both charged by a qualifying
22 institution for attendance at the institution by an eligible student. The tuition grant shall
23 not exceed the amount of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri-
24 Columbia for attendance.

25 2. Within the limits of the amounts appropriated therefor, the coordinating board
26 for higher education shall award annually up to twenty-five grants to survivors of war
27 veterans to attend institutions of postsecondary education in this state, which shall continue
28 to be awarded annually to eligible recipients as long as certain standards of academic
29 performance, as determined by the coordinating board for higher education, continue to
30 be achieved. If the waiting list of eligible survivors exceeds fifty, the coordinating board
31 may request the general assembly to increase the limitation on the number of grants
32 authorized under this section. If the limitation on the number of grants under this section
33 is not increased, the eligibility of survivors on the waiting list shall be extended.

34 3. An eligible student may receive a grant under this section only so long as the
35 eligible student is enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, or an associate or
36 baccalaureate degree in a qualifying institution. In no event shall the eligible student
37 receive a grant beyond the completion of the first baccalaureate degree. No eligible student
38 shall receive more than one hundred percent of tuition when combined with similar funds
39 made available to such eligible student.

40 4. The coordinating board for higher education shall:

41 (1) Promulgate all necessary rules for the implementation of this section;

42 (2) Determine minimum standards of performance for a student to remain eligible
43 to receive a grant under this program;

44 (3) Make available on behalf of the eligible student an amount toward the eligible
45 student's tuition which is equal to the grant to which the eligible student is entitled under
46 the provisions of this section;

47 (4) Provide the forms and determine the procedures necessary for an eligible
48 student to apply for and receive a grant under this program.

49 5. An eligible student who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment at a
50 qualifying institution shall receive a tuition grant in an amount not to exceed the actual
51 tuition charged at the qualifying institution where the eligible student is enrolled or

52 accepted for enrollment. In addition, such student shall receive an allowance of two
53 thousand dollars per semester for room and board, and an allowance for the actual cost
54 of books, up to five hundred dollars per semester.

55 6. An eligible student who is a recipient of a grant may transfer from one qualifying
56 institution to another without losing his or her entitlement under this section. The board
57 shall make necessary adjustments in the amount of the grant. If a grant recipient at
58 anytime withdraws from a qualifying institution so that under the rules of such institution
59 the eligible student is entitled to a refund of any tuition, fees, or other charges, the
60 qualifying institution shall pay the portion of the refund to which the student is entitled
61 attributable to the grant for that semester or similar grading period to the board.

62 7. If an eligible student is granted financial assistance under any other student aid
63 program, public or private, the full amount of such aid shall be reported to the board by
64 the qualifying institution and the eligible student.

65 8. Nothing in this section shall be construed as a promise or guarantee that a person
66 will be admitted to a qualifying institution or to a particular qualifying institution, will be
67 allowed to continue to attend a qualifying institution after having been admitted, or will
68 be graduated from a qualifying institution.

69 9. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri Sunset Act:

70 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall
71 automatically sunset six years after the effective date of this section, unless reauthorized
72 by an act of the general assembly; and

73 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section
74 shall automatically sunset twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this
75 section.

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