
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2448 Session of
2014

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COX, FLECK, SABATINA, ROCK, MAHONEY AND PASHINSKI,
AUGUST 28, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, AUGUST 28, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in educational gratuity program,
3 establishing the Medal of Honor and Purple Heart Recipient
4 Tuition Waiver Program; and making editorial changes.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. The heading of Chapter 87 of Title 51 of the
8 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 CHAPTER 87

10 EDUCATIONAL [GRATUITY PROGRAM] AWARDS

11 Subchapter

12 A. Preliminary Provisions

13 B. Educational Gratuity

14 C. Medal Of Honor And Purple Heart Recipient Tuition Waiver
15 Program

16 Section 2. Chapter 87 is amended by adding a subchapter

1 heading to read:

2 SUBCHAPTER A

3 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

4 Sec.

5 8701. Definitions.

6 Section 3. Section 8701 of Title 51 is amended to read:

7 § 8701. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
9 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Commission." The State Veterans' Commission established
12 under section 1702 (relating to State Veterans' Commission).

13 "Educational institution." Any college or university of the
14 State System of Higher Education, a State-aided educational or
15 training institution of a secondary or college grade or other
16 institution of higher education, a business school, a trade
17 school, a hospital school providing training for nurses, an
18 institution providing courses in beauty culture, art, radio or
19 undertaking or embalming, or such other educational training
20 within this Commonwealth approved by the commission.

21 "Eligible disabled or deceased veteran." A person who served
22 in the military or naval forces of the United States, or a
23 women's organization officially connected therewith, who:

24 (1) was killed in action or died as a result of wounds
25 incurred during a period of war or armed conflict or as a
26 result of hostile fire or terrorist attack during peacetime
27 (as determined by the Department of Military Affairs);

28 (2) died in service during a period of war or armed
29 conflict;

30 (3) was honorably discharged from the military or naval

1 forces of the United States and certified by the United
2 States Veterans' Administration as a 100% disabled veteran as
3 a result of service during a period of war or armed conflict
4 or as a result of hostile fire or terrorist attack (as
5 determined by the Department of Military Affairs) during
6 peacetime; or

7 (4) was honorably discharged from the military or naval
8 forces of the United States and died as a result of a
9 service-connected disability (as certified by the United
10 States Veterans' Administration) incurred during a period of
11 war or armed conflict or as a result of peacetime hostile
12 fire or terrorist attack (as determined by the Department of
13 Military Affairs).

14 "Qualified child." Any child meeting the requirements of
15 section [8703] 8712 (relating to eligibility and qualification
16 requirements).

17 Section 4. Chapter 87 is amended by adding a subchapter
18 heading to read:

19 SUBCHAPTER B

20 EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY

21 Sec.

22 8711. Educational gratuity payments.

23 8712. Eligibility and qualification requirements.

24 Section 5. Sections 8702 and 8703 of Title 51 are renumbered
25 to read:

26 § [8702] 8711. Educational gratuity payments.

27 (a) General rule.--The commission shall make educational
28 gratuity payments not exceeding \$500 per term or semester per
29 qualified child to each approved educational institution upon
30 submission by that approved educational institution of proof

1 that bills have been incurred or contracted covering
2 matriculation fees and other necessary fees, tuition, board,
3 room rent, books and supplies for a qualified child in a
4 definite amount for the school year.

5 (b) Records.--The commission shall attach the proof
6 submitted under subsection (a) to the requisition prepared for
7 payment out of appropriations made by the General Assembly for
8 purposes of the educational gratuity payments.

9 (c) Duration of payments.--Whenever a qualified child is
10 completing an educational or training course and becomes 23
11 years of age before completing the course, the educational
12 gratuity payment may be paid until the course is completed. No
13 educational gratuity payments may be made for any qualified
14 child for a period longer than four scholastic years, provided,
15 however, that the department may adjust the payments per term or
16 semester per child so that the total payments do not exceed the
17 amount of the appropriation.

18 § [8703] 8712. Eligibility and qualification requirements.

19 (a) Eligibility standards.--The following requirements shall
20 be used to determine the eligibility of applicants for
21 educational gratuity payments. The applicant shall be:

22 (1) Not less than 16 years of age nor more than 23 years
23 of age.

24 (2) The child of an eligible disabled or deceased
25 veteran.

26 (3) A resident of this Commonwealth for a period of five
27 years immediately preceding the date the application was
28 filed.

29 (b) Qualification determination.--The commission shall
30 determine qualified applicants based on the following

1 requirements:

2 (1) The applicant meets the requirements of subsection
3 (a).

4 (2) The applicant is attending an approved educational
5 institution.

6 (3) The applicant demonstrates a financial need for the
7 educational gratuity.

8 (c) Appeal.--Any aggrieved applicant may appeal the decision
9 of the commission to the Adjutant General under the provisions
10 of Title 2 (relating to administrative law and procedure).

11 Section 6. Chapter 87 is amended by adding a subchapter to
12 read:

13 SUBCHAPTER C

14 MEDAL OF HONOR AND PURPLE HEART

15 RECIPIENT TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM

16 Sec.

17 8721. Definitions.

18 8722. Establishment.

19 8723. Requirements.

20 8724. Regulations.

21 § 8721. Definitions.

22 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter
23 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
24 context clearly indicates otherwise:

25 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance
26 Agency.

27 "Medal of Honor recipient." A qualified resident who is a
28 veteran and who has been awarded the Medal of Honor as a result
29 of the individual's service in the United States Armed Forces.

30 "Public institution of higher education." One of the

1 following:

2 (1) A community college as defined under section 1901-
3 A(4) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as
4 the Public School Code of 1949.

5 (2) A State-related institution.

6 (3) The Pennsylvania State University, the University of
7 Pittsburgh, Temple University and Lincoln University, and a
8 branch campus of one of these universities.

9 (4) A member institution of the State System of Higher
10 Education.

11 "Purple Heart recipient." A qualified resident who is a
12 veteran and who has earned or has been awarded the Purple Heart
13 as a result of the individual's service in the United States
14 Armed Forces.

15 "Qualified resident." An individual who has been a bona fide
16 resident of this Commonwealth prior to the time an application
17 for a tuition waiver is made.

18 "Tuition." The rate charged to a resident of this
19 Commonwealth by a public institution of higher education.

20 "Veteran." An individual who has served in the United States
21 Armed Forces including a reserve component or National Guard and
22 who has been discharged or released from the service under
23 conditions other than dishonorable.

24 § 8722. Establishment.

25 There is established the Medal of Honor and Purple Heart
26 Recipient Tuition Waiver Program.

27 § 8723. Requirements.

28 (a) Waiver.--Beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year, a
29 public institution of higher education shall waive the tuition
30 for each qualified resident who is a recipient of the Medal of

1 Honor or Purple Heart who:

2 (1) Is admitted as a full-time or part-time student in a
3 program of study leading to a degree or certificate.

4 (2) Submits verification as provided under paragraph (3)
5 that the veteran is a Medal of Honor or Purple Heart
6 recipient.

7 (3) Provides documentation as required by the department
8 that provides verification that the applicant meets the
9 requirements under this subchapter.

10 (b) Determination.--The agency shall make the final decision
11 as to whether an applicant is a qualified resident.

12 § 8724. Regulations.

13 The Adjutant General and the agency may promulgate
14 regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

15 Section 7. This act shall take effect in 60 days.