2023 Regular Session

ACT No. 46

SENATE BILL NO. 115

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX, BARROW, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CONNICK, CORTEZ, DUPLESSIS, FESI, FIELDS, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, KLEINPETER, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, SMITH, STINE, TALBOT, TARVER, WHITE AND WOMACK AND REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BOYD, BROWN, BUTLER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COX, EDMONDS, FIRMENT, FISHER, GAINES, GAROFALO, GLOVER, HORTON, HUGHES, ILLG, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MOORE, CHARLES OWEN, PIERRE, SELDERS AND WHITE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 29:288 and to enact R.S. 17:1686(D) and R.S. 29:771.1, relative
3	to educational benefits for children and spouses of certain veterans; to provide
4	definitions; to provide relative to eligibility; to provide for a veteran benefits and
5	services poster; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 29:288 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 29:771.1 is hereby
8	enacted to read as follows:
9	§288. Educational benefits for children, spouses, and surviving spouses of veterans
10	A.(1) For the purpose of this Subsection, "qualified veteran" shall mean
11	a member of the armed forces of the United States of America who:
12	(a) Was either killed in action, died in active service from other causes,
13	is missing in action, is a prisoner of war, died as a result of a service-connected
14	disability incurred during a wartime period as defined in R.S. 29:251.2, or who,
15	prior to death, was rated ninety to one hundred percent service-connected
16	disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs by evaluation of
17	the Rating Schedule or was determined by the department to be unemployable
18	as a result of a service-connected disability, and who was a resident of Louisiana
19	for a period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding entrance into

Page 1 of 4

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SB NO. 115

1	service or for a period not less than twenty-four months prior to the veteran's
2	<u>death.</u>
3	(b) Is rated ninety to one hundred percent service-connected disabled by
4	the United States Department of Veterans Affairs by evaluation of the Rating
5	Schedule or is determined by the department to be unemployable as a result of
6	a service-connected disability and has been a resident of Louisiana for a period
7	of not less than twenty-four months prior to the veteran's child's admission into
8	a program of education at a public postsecondary institution.
9	(2) Children, Any child, not less than sixteen nor more than twenty-five years
10	of age, spouses, and surviving spouses, within ten years from the date of eligibility,
11	of members of the armed forces of the United States of America who were killed in
12	action or died in active service from other causes or who are missing in action or
13	who are prisoners of war or who died as a result of a service-connected disability
14	incurred during a wartime period defined in R.S. 29:251.2 and who for a period of
15	not less than twelve months immediately preceding their entrance into service were
16	residents of this state and children not less than sixteen nor more than twenty-five
17	years of age of veterans rated ninety to one hundred percent service-connected
18	disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs by evaluation of the
19	Rating Schedule and children not less than sixteen nor more than twenty-five years
20	of age of veterans who have been determined by the department to be unemployable
21	as a result of a service-connected disability of a qualified veteran may attend any
22	state college or university, including institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board
23	of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges public postsecondary
24	education institution within the state, without having to pay tuition, matriculation,
25	registration, laboratory, athletic, medical, and other school-imposed fees, including
26	but not limited to nonresidency and other special fees if the veteran has been a
27	resident of this state for a period of not less than twenty-four months immediately
28	preceding the dependent's admission into a program of education.
29	B.(1) For the purpose of this Subsection, "qualified veteran" shall mean
30	a member of the armed forces of the United States of America who:

Page 2 of 4 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

SB NO. 115

ENROLLED

1	(a) Was killed in action, died in active service from other causes, is
2	missing in action, is a prisoner of war, died as a result of a service-connected
3	disability incurred during a wartime period as defined in R.S. 29:251.2, or who,
4	prior to death, was rated ninety to one hundred percent service-connected
5	disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs by evaluation of
6	the Rating Schedule or was determined by the department to be unemployable
7	as a result of a service-connected disability, and was a resident of Louisiana for
8	a period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding entrance into
9	service or for a period not less than twenty-four months prior to death.
10	(2) A spouse or surviving spouse of a qualified veteran, within ten years
11	from the date of eligibility, may attend any public postsecondary education
12	institution within the state, without having to pay tuition, matriculation,
13	registration, laboratory, athletic, medical, and other school-imposed fees,
14	including but not limited to nonresidency and other special fees.
15	C. The public postsecondary education institution shall not grant the
16	benefits provided under the provisions of this Section if the student has received
17	or is receiving the benefits provided under the provisions of R.S. 17:1686.
18	* * *
19	§771.1. Veteran benefits and services poster
20	A. The Louisiana Workforce Commission shall consult with the
21	Department of Veterans Affairs to create and distribute a veteran's benefits and
22	services poster. The poster shall, at a minimum, include information regarding
23	the following services available to veterans:
24	(1) Contact and website information for the Department of Veterans
25	Affairs and its services offered to veterans.
26	(2) Contact information for the United States Department of Veterans
27	Affairs Veterans Crisis Line.
28	(3) Mental health and substance abuse prevention resources.
29	(4) Veteran homelessness prevention resources.
30	(5) Veteran disability compensation and pension claims filing assistance.

Page 3 of 4 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

SB NO. 115

ENROLLED

1	(6) Educational, workforce, and training resources.
2	(7) Louisiana state property and military retiree pay tax exemptions
3	available to veterans.
4	(8) State veteran home and cemetery benefits.
5	B. Every employer in the state with more than fifty full-time equivalent
6	employees shall display the poster created pursuant to this Section in a
7	conspicuous place accessible to employees in the workplace.
8	Section 2. R.S. 17:1686(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
9	§1686. Scholarship for a child of a military person killed in performance of duty
10	* * *
10	ΥΥΥΥ
11	D. The public postsecondary education institution shall not grant the
11	D. The public postsecondary education institution shall not grant the
11 12	D. The public postsecondary education institution shall not grant the benefits provided under the provisions of this Section if the student has received
11 12 13	D. The public postsecondary education institution shall not grant the benefits provided under the provisions of this Section if the student has received or is receiving the benefits provided under the provisions of R.S. 29:288.
11 12 13 14	D. The public postsecondary education institution shall not grant the benefits provided under the provisions of this Section if the student has received or is receiving the benefits provided under the provisions of R.S. 29:288. Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
11 12 13 14 15	D. The public postsecondary education institution shall not grant the benefits provided under the provisions of this Section if the student has received or is receiving the benefits provided under the provisions of R.S. 29:288. Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
11 12 13 14 15 16	D. The public postsecondary education institution shall not grant the benefits provided under the provisions of this Section if the student has received or is receiving the benefits provided under the provisions of R.S. 29:288. Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____