

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 969

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BROWN.

Read 1st time January 25, 2016, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

6004S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.900, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to tuition assistance for combat veterans.

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

Section A. Section 173.900, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.900, to read as follows:

173.900. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri
2 Returning Heroes' Education Act".

3 2. For the purpose of this section, the term "combat veteran" shall mean
4 a person who served in armed combat in the military after September 11, 2001,
5 and to whom the following criteria shall apply:

6 (1) The veteran was a Missouri resident when first entering the military;
7 and

8 (2) The veteran was discharged from military service under honorable
9 conditions.

10 3. All public institutions of higher education that receive any state funds
11 appropriated by the general assembly shall limit the amount of tuition such
12 institutions charge to combat veterans to fifty dollars per credit hour, as long as
13 the veteran achieves and maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least
14 two and one-half on a four-point scale, or its equivalent. The tuition limitation
15 shall only be applicable if the combat veteran is enrolled in a program leading to
16 a certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree. The period during which
17 a combat veteran is eligible for a tuition limitation under this section shall expire
18 at the end of the ten-year period beginning on the date of such veteran's last
19 discharge from service.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

20 4. The coordinating board for higher education shall ensure that all
21 applicable institutions of higher education in this state comply with the
22 provisions of this section and may promulgate rules for the efficient
23 implementation of this section.

24 5. If a combat veteran is eligible to receive financial assistance under any
25 other federal or state student aid program, public or private, the full amount of
26 such aid shall be reported to the board by the institution and the veteran. The
27 tuition limitation under this section shall be provided **[after] before** all other
28 federal and state aid for which the veteran is eligible has been applied[, and no
29 combat veteran shall receive more than the actual cost of attendance when the
30 limitation is combined with other aid made available to such veteran].

31 6. Each institution may report to the board the amount of tuition waived
32 in the previous fiscal year under the provisions of this act. This information may
33 be included in each institution's request for appropriations to the board for the
34 following year. The board may include this information in its appropriations
35 recommendations to the governor and the general assembly. The general
36 assembly may reimburse institutions for the cost of the waiver for the previous
37 year as part of the operating budget. Nothing in this subsection shall be
38 construed to deny a combat veteran a tuition limitation if the general assembly
39 does not appropriate money for reimbursement to an institution.

40 7. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010,
41 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective
42 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and,
43 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and
44 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to
45 review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
46 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and
47 any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2008, shall be invalid and void.

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