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TUITION WAIVER FOR GULF VETS

House Bill 5082 Sponsor: Rep. Beverly Bodem

Committee: Military & Veteran Affairs

Complete to 9-6-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5082 AS INTRODUCED 8-1-91

The bill would create the Persian Gulf Veterans Tuition Act to offer a resident of the state who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces, Michigan National Guard, or the U.S. armed forces reserve after August 2, 1990 in an area designated as a combat zone by the U.S. president free tuition and fees to attend a state public college or university. Each year the legislature would have to appropriate funds needed to implement the bill's provisions. A veteran who qualified would be eligible to receive the waiver for a period of five years from the beginning of the first term or semester in which a tuition and fee waiver was first granted as specified in the bill.

Under the bill, a state college or university would have to waive tuition and mandatory fees for each eligible Persian Gulf War veteran who 1) applied and qualified for admission as a full-time, part-time or summer school student, 2) was a legal state resident for at least 12 consecutive months before applying, 3) applied to the Department of Military Affairs for tuition and fee waiver under the bill's provisions and proved to the department that he or she was an eligible veteran and met the act's other requirements, and 4) submitted his or her initial waiver application to the department not later than five years after the bill's effective date.

Upon application by a college or university, the department would have to reimburse annually each college or university for the total amount of tuition and fees waived for such students during the immediately preceding fiscal year. The department would have to report to the legislature annually the number of persons whose tuition and fees were waived at each school and the total amounts to be paid. Also, the department would have to provide the necessary forms and applications and would have to cooperate with the state's colleges and universities in developing efficient procedures for implementing the bill's provisions.