

HOUSE BILL No. 4093

January 23, 2007, Introduced by Reps. Vagnozzi, Byrnes, Meadows, Gonzales, Lemmons, Tobocman, Melton, Griffin, Brown, Accavitti, Gillard, Dean, Condino and Young and referred to the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security.

A bill to establish an undergraduate tuition waiver program for certain qualified veterans of the armed forces of the United States; to provide for the administration of the tuition waiver program; and to prescribe certain powers and duties of certain state officers, agencies, and departments.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "veterans tuition waiver act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Academic year" means the period from August 1 of a
5 calendar year to July 31 of the next calendar year.

6 (b) "Authority" means the Michigan higher education assistance
7 authority created by 1960 PA 77, MCL 390.951 to 390.961.

8 (c) "Eligible institution" means a degree- or certificate-
9 granting public or independent nonprofit college or university,

1 junior college, or community college in this state.

2 (d) "Eligible tuition" means the tuition charged by an
3 eligible institution for an undergraduate class.

4 (e) "Full-time" means enrolled in at least 12 credit hours in
5 an academic semester or the equivalent number of credit hours in a
6 term or quarter, as determined by the authority.

7 (f) "Qualified veteran" means an individual who meets all of
8 the following:

9 (i) Either his or her legal residence immediately before
10 entering military service was in this state and he or she did not
11 later reside outside of this state for a period of more than 2
12 years or he or she established legal residency in this state after
13 entering military service.

14 (ii) He or she served as a member of any branch of the armed
15 forces of the United States and received an honorable discharge or
16 a discharge for physical reasons with an honorable record.

17 (iii) His or her military service included service in the
18 Persian Gulf combat zone as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom or in
19 southern or central Asia as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

20 (g) "Undergraduate classes" means classes or courses that
21 provide a student with academic credit applicable toward a
22 bachelor's or associate's degree from an eligible institution.

23 Sec. 3. The veterans tuition waiver program is created, to be
24 administered by the authority. The authority shall do all of the
25 following:

26 (a) Provide tuition waivers at eligible institutions for
27 qualified veterans under this act.

1 (b) Develop a tuition waiver agreement to be entered into by a
2 tuition waiver recipient and the eligible institution that contains
3 the terms of a tuition waiver made under this act and the rights
4 and obligations of the recipient and the eligible institution.

5 (c) Promulgate rules to implement and administer this act
6 under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL
7 24.201 to 24.328. The rules may include additional standards of
8 eligibility for qualified veterans to receive tuition waivers under
9 this act.

10 Sec. 4. (1) Beginning in the 2008-2009 academic year, an
11 eligible institution that agrees to participate in the tuition
12 waiver program established by this act shall waive tuition in an
13 amount determined under subsection (2) for any qualified veteran
14 who meets all of the following requirements:

15 (a) Is enrolled in that academic year as a full-time student
16 in undergraduate classes at an eligible institution.

17 (b) Is a United States citizen or permanent resident of the
18 United States.

19 (c) Is less than 60 years of age.

20 (d) Has resided continuously in this state for the 12 months
21 immediately preceding the date of his or her application and is not
22 a resident of any other state.

23 (e) Has maintained a cumulative grade point average of at
24 least 2.25 in any undergraduate classes he or she completed at any
25 eligible institution in any previous academic years.

26 (f) Has signed a written tuition waiver agreement with the
27 eligible institution.

1 (g) Is in compliance with this act and the rules promulgated
2 under this act.

3 (h) Has not been convicted of a felony involving an assault,
4 physical injury, or death.

5 (i) Meets any other standards established in rules promulgated
6 by the authority under section 3.

7 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3), the amount of a
8 tuition waiver described in subsection (1) in an academic year is
9 \$2,500.00 or an amount equal to all of the qualified veteran's
10 eligible tuition in that academic year, whichever is less.

11 (3) A qualified veteran shall not receive tuition waiver
12 assistance under this act in more than 4 academic years.

13 Sec. 5. (1) Beginning in the 2008-2009 academic year, within
14 60 days after the end of an academic year, an eligible institution
15 shall apply to the authority for reimbursement of tuition waived
16 under this act in that academic year. The application shall include
17 the total number of qualified veterans whose tuition was waived;
18 the total amount of reimbursement requested by the eligible
19 institution; and an itemization of the waivers that includes the
20 name of each qualified veteran receiving a tuition waiver, the
21 amount of that waiver, the qualified veteran's grade point average
22 for the academic year, the qualified veteran's cumulative grade
23 point average, the qualified veteran's transcript for the academic
24 year, and a certification that the qualified veteran meets the
25 eligibility requirements for tuition reimbursement under this act
26 in the amount requested by the eligible institution.

27 (2) The authority shall verify the amount of reimbursement to

1 which an eligible institution is entitled and report that
2 information to the house and senate appropriation subcommittees on
3 higher education and community colleges.

4 (3) The legislature shall appropriate money for reimbursement
5 to the eligible institution if the institution receives annual
6 appropriations from this state or to the authority for distribution
7 to the eligible institution if the institution does not receive
8 annual appropriations from this state. Money appropriated under
9 this subsection shall be used only for tuition waivers under this
10 act.