
SENATE BILL 5280

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen, Rasmussen, Shin, Kilmer and Honeyford

Read first time 01/15/2007. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to military scholarships; adding a new section to
2 chapter 28B.15 RCW; creating a new section; and making appropriations.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Educational opportunity is a primary concern
5 of military families. Availability of educational opportunity is a
6 significant factor in readiness and retention of service personnel. It
7 is known that service personnel most appreciate public efforts to
8 assist their families during their service, especially service
9 overseas. Military spouses may suddenly find themselves primarily
10 responsible for family income. The citizens of Washington state owe a
11 debt of gratitude to those who serve in the Washington state national
12 guard and extend this gratitude to our citizens who serve in the
13 reserves and on active duty in the United States military. It is
14 intended that the dollars for military scholars program created in
15 section 2 of this act will be administered by a nonprofit corporation
16 such as ThanksUSA.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.15 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) A postsecondary education grant program, known as the dollars
2 for military scholars program, is created.

3 (2) To be eligible for a postsecondary education grant under this
4 section, an applicant must:

5 (a) Be a:

6 (i) Veteran who is a citizen of Washington who is on active
7 military or national guard duty, or the spouse or dependent of the
8 veteran; or

9 (ii) Veteran who is on active military or national guard duty
10 stationed in the state, or the spouse or dependent of the veteran;

11 (b) Be applying for a two or four-year institution of higher
12 education or a vocational or technical school degree or certification
13 program;

14 (c) Demonstrate a financial need as the grants are need-based; and

15 (d) Recognize that extra evaluative points will be awarded for
16 those working toward math, science, engineering, or non-English
17 language studies.

18 (3)(a) The grant program shall be administered by a nonprofit
19 organization organized under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue
20 code that provides college, technical, and vocational scholarships to
21 spouses and dependents of veterans and active members of the United
22 States armed forces.

23 (b) Need-based, postsecondary scholarship grants in amounts of
24 between one thousand and five thousand dollars each shall be made
25 available to persons who meet the eligibility requirements of this
26 section.

27 (4) State moneys used to provide grants shall be matched by private
28 funds.

29 (5) The program administrator shall:

30 (a) Guarantee that all appropriated funds, excluding ten percent of
31 the funds allowable each year for operational expenses, shall go to
32 citizens of Washington state or those active duty military personnel
33 stationed at a Washington state military base;

34 (b) Partner with scholarship America for scholarship application
35 processing and support;

36 (c) Make every reasonable effort to advertise the availability of
37 this scholarship widely to ensure all allowable applicants are aware of
38 the availability of this scholarship program; and

1 (d) Provide annual, audited financial statements to the fiscal
2 committees of the legislature.

3 (6) This section may be known and cited as the Washington state
4 dollars for military scholars act.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1)(a) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand
6 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
7 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, from the general fund to the
8 program administrator of the scholarship grant program in section 1 of
9 this act for the purposes of this act.

10 (b) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much
11 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
12 June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the program administrator of
13 the scholarship grant program in section 1 of this act for the purposes
14 of this act.

15 (c) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or as much
16 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
17 June 30, 2010, from the general fund to the program administrator of
18 the scholarship grant program in section 1 of this act for the purposes
19 of this act.

20 (2) Of the amounts appropriated in this section, ten percent may be
21 used each fiscal year by the program administrator for operational
22 expenses.

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