
DIGEST

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HB 167 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Cox

Abstract: Provides for a tuition and fee waiver for disabled veterans.

Proposed law provides that a disabled veteran who does not qualify for the 100% eligibility tier under federal law relative to postsecondary education benefits shall receive an exemption in an amount equal to the remaining tuition and fees owed to the public postsecondary education institution attended after the application of federal benefits. Defines "disabled veteran" as an individual who has a service-connected disability as determined by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and who is a resident of La.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a program of merit scholarships awarded to students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet certain academic and other qualifications. Provides that the award amount for a given institution is equal to the amount of the tuition charged by that institution during the 2016-17 academic year. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for a tuition waiver program for certain individuals serving in the La. National Guard. Provides that in lieu of the tuition payment provided by TOPS, such an individual receives his tuition exemption through the National Guard program but also receives stipends through TOPS for books and other educational expenses, the amount of which is dependent on the TOPS award level for which he qualifies. Proposed law also applies these parameters to the disabled veterans receiving the proposed law tuition waiver.

(Adds R.S. 17:1688 and 5002(H))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Apply proposed law to all veterans with a service-related disability rather than only those with a disability classification of 100%.