

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 167

BY REPRESENTATIVES COX, ADAMS, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BOYD, CARRIER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, DEVILLIER, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FIRMENT, FISHER, HODGES, HUGHES, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, JORDAN, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MOORE, CHARLES OWEN, ROMERO, SELTERS, THOMPSON, TURNER, WHITE, AND WILLARD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENT/TUITION: Provides for a tuition waiver for certain disabled veterans

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:1688 and 5002(H), relative to tuition and fees at public postsecondary
3 education institutions; to provide for a tuition and fee waiver for certain disabled
4 veterans; to provide for the waiver amount to be calculated after the application of
5 federal benefits; to provide criteria for continuing eligibility and for the maximum
6 duration of the waiver; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:1688 and 5002(H) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1688. Disabled veterans; tuition and fee exemption

10 A.(1) A disabled veteran who has enrolled in a program of education
11 approved for educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. 3313 at a public postsecondary
12 education institution and who does not qualify for the one hundred percent eligibility
13 tier shall receive an exemption in an amount equal to the remaining tuition and fees
14 owed to the institution attended after the application of federal benefits under
15 38 U.S.C. 3313.

16 (2) For purposes of this Section, "disabled veteran" means an individual who
17 has a service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of
18 Veterans Affairs and who is a resident of Louisiana.

19 B. In order to be eligible for the exemption, the student shall maintain full-
20 time enrollment and meet the academic standards and comply with the rules and

1 regulations of the institution for enrollment and continued attendance. A student
2 shall be eligible for the exemption for up to ten semesters or an equivalent number
3 of units in an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other
4 than semesters.

5 * * *

6 §5002. Awards and amounts

7 * * *

8 H. In lieu of the payment of tuition as provided in this Section, any student
9 participating in the program provided by R.S. 17:1688 for disabled veterans shall
10 receive the tuition exemption provided in that Section.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 167 Reengrossed

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.

Proposed law provides that if a student qualifies for both the proposed law tuition waiver and a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) scholarship award, he shall receive the tuition exemption provided by proposed law rather than through TOPS.

(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%.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove additional payments for students who qualify for TOPS in addition to the proposed law tuition waiver.