

SENATE BILL NO. 115

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX, BARROW, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CONNICK, CORTEZ, DUPLESSIS, FESI, FIELDS, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, KLEINPETER, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, SMITH, STINE, TALBOT, TARVER, WHITE AND WOMACK AND REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BOYD, BROWN, BUTLER, ROBBY CARTER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COX, EDMONDS, FIRMENT, FISHER, GAINES, GAROFALO, GLOVER, HORTON, HUGHES, ILLG, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MOORE, CHARLES OWEN, PIERRE, SELDERS AND WHITE

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

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 29:288 and to enact R.S. 17:1686(D) and R.S. 29:771.1, relative
3 to educational benefits for children and spouses of certain veterans; to provide
4 definitions; to provide relative to eligibility; to provide for a veteran benefits and
5 services poster; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 29:288 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 29:771.1 is hereby
8 enacted to read as follows:

9 §288. Educational benefits for children, spouses, and surviving spouses of veterans

10 **A.(1) For the purpose of this Subsection, "qualified veteran" shall mean**
11 **a member of the armed forces of the United States of America who:**

12 **(a) Was either killed in action, died in active service from other causes,**
13 **is missing in action, is a prisoner of war, died as a result of a service-connected**
14 **disability incurred during a wartime period as defined in R.S. 29:251.2, or who,**
15 **prior to death, was rated ninety to one hundred percent service-connected**
16 **disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs by evaluation of**
17 **the Rating Schedule or was determined by the department to be unemployable**
18 **as a result of a service-connected disability, and who was a resident of Louisiana**
19 **for a period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding entrance into**

1 service or for a period not less than twenty-four months prior to the veteran's
 2 death.

3 (b) Is rated ninety to one hundred percent service-connected disabled by
 4 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs by evaluation of the Rating
 5 Schedule or is determined by the department to be unemployable as a result of
 6 a service-connected disability and has been a resident of Louisiana for a period
 7 of not less than twenty-four months prior to the veteran's child's admission into
 8 a program of education at a public postsecondary institution.

9 (2) Children, Any child, not less than sixteen nor more than twenty-five years
 10 of age, ~~spouses, and surviving spouses, within ten years from the date of eligibility,~~
 11 ~~of members of the armed forces of the United States of America who were killed in~~
 12 ~~action or died in active service from other causes or who are missing in action or~~
 13 ~~who are prisoners of war or who died as a result of a service-connected disability~~
 14 ~~incurred during a wartime period defined in R.S. 29:251.2 and who for a period of~~
 15 ~~not less than twelve months immediately preceding their entrance into service were~~
 16 ~~residents of this state and children not less than sixteen nor more than twenty-five~~
 17 ~~years of age of veterans rated ninety to one hundred percent service-connected~~
 18 ~~disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs by evaluation of the~~
 19 ~~Rating Schedule and children not less than sixteen nor more than twenty-five years~~
 20 ~~of age of veterans who have been determined by the department to be unemployable~~
 21 ~~as a result of a service-connected disability~~ **of a qualified veteran** may attend any
 22 state college or university, including institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board
 23 of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges **public postsecondary**
 24 **education institution within the state,** without having to pay tuition, matriculation,
 25 registration, laboratory, athletic, medical, and other school-imposed fees, including
 26 but not limited to nonresidency and other special fees ~~if the veteran has been a~~
 27 ~~resident of this state for a period of not less than twenty-four months immediately~~
 28 ~~preceding the dependent's admission into a program of education.~~

29 **B.(1) For the purpose of this Subsection, "qualified veteran" shall mean**
 30 **a member of the armed forces of the United States of America who:**

1 (a) Was killed in action, died in active service from other causes, is
 2 missing in action, is a prisoner of war, died as a result of a service-connected
 3 disability incurred during a wartime period as defined in R.S. 29:251.2, or who,
 4 prior to death, was rated ninety to one hundred percent service-connected
 5 disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs by evaluation of
 6 the Rating Schedule or was determined by the department to be unemployable
 7 as a result of a service-connected disability, and was a resident of Louisiana for
 8 a period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding entrance into
 9 service or for a period not less than twenty-four months prior to death.

10 (2) A spouse or surviving spouse of a qualified veteran, within ten years
 11 from the date of eligibility, may attend any public postsecondary education
 12 institution within the state, without having to pay tuition, matriculation,
 13 registration, laboratory, athletic, medical, and other school-imposed fees,
 14 including but not limited to nonresidency and other special fees.

15 C. The public postsecondary education institution shall not grant the
 16 benefits provided under the provisions of this Section if the student has received
 17 or is receiving the benefits provided under the provisions of R.S. 17:1686.

18 * * *

19 §771.1. Veteran benefits and services poster

20 A. The Louisiana Workforce Commission shall consult with the
 21 Department of Veterans Affairs to create and distribute a veteran's benefits and
 22 services poster. The poster shall, at a minimum, include information regarding
 23 the following services available to veterans:

24 (1) Contact and website information for the Department of Veterans
 25 Affairs and its services offered to veterans.

26 (2) Contact information for the United States Department of Veterans
 27 Affairs Veterans Crisis Line.

28 (3) Mental health and substance abuse prevention resources.

29 (4) Veteran homelessness prevention resources.

30 (5) Veteran disability compensation and pension claims filing assistance.

