



95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB4625

by Rep. Ron Stephens

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/40

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. With respect to the Illinois Veteran Grant program, provides that assistance (which is an entitlement that a public university or community college must honor) must include reimbursement for 50% of the costs of textbooks required to be purchased for courses taken at the university or community college. Effective immediately.

LRB095 15035 NHT 40992 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning higher education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by changing Section 40 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/40)

7 Sec. 40. Illinois Veteran grant program.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Qualified applicant" means a person who served in the
10 Armed Forces of the United States, a Reserve component of the
11 Armed Forces, or the Illinois National Guard, excluding members
12 of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and those whose only
13 service has been attendance at a service academy, and who meets
14 all of the following qualifications:

15 (1) At the time of entering federal active duty service
16 the person was one of the following:

17 (A) An Illinois resident.

18 (B) An Illinois resident within 6 months of
19 entering such service.

20 (C) Enrolled at a State-controlled university or
21 public community college in this State.

22 (2) The person meets one of the following requirements:

23 (A) He or she served at least one year of federal

1 active duty.

2 (B) He or she served less than one year of federal
3 active duty and received an honorable discharge for
4 medical reasons directly connected with such service.

5 (C) He or she served less than one year of federal
6 active duty and was discharged prior to August 11,
7 1967.

8 (D) He or she served less than one year of federal
9 active duty in a foreign country during a time of
10 hostilities in that foreign country.

11 (3) The person received an honorable discharge after
12 leaving each period of federal active duty service.

13 (4) The person returned to this State within 6 months
14 after leaving federal active duty service, or, if married
15 to a person in continued military service stationed outside
16 this State, returned to this State within 6 months after
17 his or her spouse left service or was stationed within this
18 State.

19 "Time of hostilities" means any action by the Armed Forces
20 of the United States that is recognized by the issuance of a
21 Presidential proclamation or a Presidential executive order
22 and in which the Armed Forces expeditionary medal or other
23 campaign service medals are awarded according to Presidential
24 executive order.

25 (b) A person who otherwise qualifies under subsection (a)
26 of this Section but has not left federal active duty service

1 and has served at least one year of federal active duty or has
2 served for less than one year of federal active duty in a
3 foreign country during a time of hostilities in that foreign
4 country and who can provide documentation demonstrating an
5 honorable service record is eligible to receive assistance
6 under this Section.

7 (c) A qualified applicant is not required to pay any
8 tuition or mandatory fees while attending a State-controlled
9 university or public community college in this State for a
10 period that is equivalent to 4 years of full-time enrollment,
11 including summer terms. Assistance under this Section must
12 include reimbursement for 50% of the costs of textbooks
13 required to be purchased for courses taken at the university or
14 community college.

15 A qualified applicant who has previously received benefits
16 under this Section for a non-mandatory fee shall continue to
17 receive benefits covering such fees while he or she is enrolled
18 in a continuous program of study. The qualified applicant shall
19 no longer receive a grant covering non-mandatory fees if he or
20 she fails to enroll during an academic term, unless he or she
21 is serving federal active duty service.

22 (d) A qualified applicant who has been or is to be awarded
23 assistance under this Section shall receive that assistance if
24 the qualified applicant notifies his or her postsecondary
25 institution of that fact by the end of the school term for
26 which assistance is requested.

1 (e) Assistance under this Section is considered an
2 entitlement that the State-controlled college or public
3 community college in which the qualified applicant is enrolled
4 shall honor without any condition other than the qualified
5 applicant's maintenance of minimum grade levels and a
6 satisfactory student loan repayment record pursuant to
7 subsection (c) of Section 20 of this Act.

8 (f) The Commission shall administer the grant program
9 established by this Section and shall make all necessary and
10 proper rules not inconsistent with this Section for its
11 effective implementation.

12 (g) All applications for assistance under this Section must
13 be made to the Commission on forms that the Commission shall
14 provide. The Commission shall determine the form of application
15 and the information required to be set forth in the
16 application, and the Commission shall require qualified
17 applicants to submit with their applications any supporting
18 documents that the Commission deems necessary. Upon request,
19 the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall assist the Commission
20 in determining the eligibility of applicants for assistance
21 under this Section.

22 (h) Assistance under this Section is available as long as
23 the federal government provides educational benefits to
24 veterans. Assistance must not be paid under this Section after
25 6 months following the termination of educational benefits to
26 veterans by the federal government, except for persons who

1 already have begun their education with assistance under this
2 Section. If the federal government terminates educational
3 benefits to veterans and at a later time resumes those
4 benefits, assistance under this Section shall resume.

5 (Source: P.A. 94-583, eff. 8-15-05.)

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
7 becoming law.