

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 30-14.2 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/30-14.2) (from Ch. 122, par. 30-14.2)  
7 Sec. 30-14.2. MIA/POW scholarships.

8 (a) Any spouse, natural child, legally adopted child, or  
9 any step-child of an eligible veteran or serviceperson who  
10 possesses all necessary entrance requirements shall, upon  
11 application and proper proof, be awarded a MIA/POW Scholarship  
12 consisting of the equivalent of 4 calendar years of full-time  
13 enrollment including summer terms, to the state supported  
14 Illinois institution of higher learning of his choice, subject  
15 to the restrictions listed below.

16 "Eligible veteran or serviceperson" means any veteran or  
17 serviceperson, including an Illinois National Guard member who  
18 is on active duty or is active on a training assignment, who  
19 has been declared by the U. S. Department of Defense or the  
20 U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to be a prisoner of war,  
21 be missing in action, have died as the result of a  
22 service-connected disability or be permanently disabled from  
23 service-connected causes with 100% disability and who (i) at

1 the time of entering service was an Illinois resident, (ii) ~~or~~  
2 was an Illinois resident within 6 months after ~~of~~ entering such  
3 service, or (iii) became an Illinois resident within 6 months  
4 after leaving the service and can establish at least 30 years  
5 of continuous residency in the State of Illinois.

6 Full-time enrollment means 12 or more semester hours of  
7 courses per semester, or 12 or more quarter hours of courses  
8 per quarter, or the equivalent thereof per term. Scholarships  
9 utilized by dependents enrolled in less than full-time study  
10 shall be computed in the proportion which the number of hours  
11 so carried bears to full-time enrollment.

12 Scholarships awarded under this Section may be used by a  
13 spouse or child without regard to his or her age. The holder of  
14 a Scholarship awarded under this Section shall be subject to  
15 all examinations and academic standards, including the  
16 maintenance of minimum grade levels, that are applicable  
17 generally to other enrolled students at the Illinois  
18 institution of higher learning where the Scholarship is being  
19 used. If the surviving spouse remarries or if there is a  
20 divorce between the veteran or serviceperson and his or her  
21 spouse while the dependent is pursuing his or her course of  
22 study, Scholarship benefits will be terminated at the end of  
23 the term for which he or she is presently enrolled. Such  
24 dependents shall also be entitled, upon proper proof and  
25 application, to enroll in any extension course offered by a  
26 State supported Illinois institution of higher learning

1 without payment of tuition and approved fees.

2 The holder of a MIA/POW Scholarship authorized under this  
3 Section shall not be required to pay any matriculation or  
4 application fees, tuition, activities fees, graduation fees or  
5 other fees, except multipurpose building fees or similar fees  
6 for supplies and materials.

7 Any dependent who has been or shall be awarded a MIA/POW  
8 Scholarship shall be reimbursed by the appropriate institution  
9 of higher learning for any fees which he or she has paid and  
10 for which exemption is granted under this Section if  
11 application for reimbursement is made within 2 months following  
12 the end of the school term for which the fees were paid.

13 (b) In lieu of the benefit provided in subsection (a), any  
14 spouse, natural child, legally adopted child, or step-child of  
15 an eligible veteran or serviceperson, which spouse or child has  
16 a physical, mental or developmental disability, shall be  
17 entitled to receive, upon application and proper proof, a  
18 benefit to be used for the purpose of defraying the cost of the  
19 attendance or treatment of such spouse or child at one or more  
20 appropriate therapeutic, rehabilitative or educational  
21 facilities. The application and proof may be made by the parent  
22 or legal guardian of the spouse or child on his or her behalf.

23 The total benefit provided to any beneficiary under this  
24 subsection shall not exceed the cost equivalent of 4 calendar  
25 years of full-time enrollment, including summer terms, at the  
26 University of Illinois. Whenever practicable in the opinion of

1 the Department of Veterans' Affairs, payment of benefits under  
2 this subsection shall be made directly to the facility, the  
3 cost of attendance or treatment at which is being defrayed, as  
4 such costs accrue.

5 (c) The benefits of this Section shall be administered by  
6 and paid for out of funds made available to the Illinois  
7 Department of Veterans' Affairs. The amounts that become due to  
8 any state supported Illinois institution of higher learning  
9 shall be payable by the Comptroller to such institution on  
10 vouchers approved by the Illinois Department of Veterans'  
11 Affairs. The amounts that become due under subsection (b) of  
12 this Section shall be payable by warrant upon vouchers issued  
13 by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and approved by  
14 the Comptroller. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs  
15 shall determine the eligibility of the persons who make  
16 application for the benefits provided for in this Section.

17 (Source: P.A. 93-825, eff. 7-28-04.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
19 2010.